

# **Film Surveyors Reach the Top: Siege-busting Roman Surveyor at Masada and the Oscar Winning Oil Surveyor**

**John BROCK, Australia**

**Keywords:** Hollywood movies, main actor surveyor, 2008 Oscar, Masada siege, Roman Surveyor, television surveyors, surveying content reference system.

## **SUMMARY**

Having collected film footage showing surveyors and surveying in many Hollywood style settings I was particularly delighted in 2008 to discover a movie release titled “There Will Be Blood” starring the great Irish actor Daniel Day-Lewis. Not only does Daniel carry out three separate scenes of survey work in the major role of the epic but he won the Academy Award for Best Actor in that part which has never happened in any of the movies in my collection. As an oil prospector he sets about conning landholders out of their holdings with the intention of extracting oil from their ground. During this process he undertakes his own survey work to locate the drilling rigs and identify the best sites for the likely mining of the black gold from the land. His ruthless character is strongly violent and after murdering one of his co-stars he engages in a very curious scene in which he uses the theodolite to monitor the progress of his shooting skills upon an arrangement of some of the ill-fated house crockery inside the residence !

During the siege of Masada in late 72 – early 73 A.D. the Roman Governor, Lucius Flavius Silva (played by Peter O’Toole in the movie of the same name re-enacting the event) was the commander of the Roman legion sent to evict the militant Jewish extremist group known as the Sicarii who had assumed occupation of the heavily fortified mountain-top garrison erected by Herod the Great between 37 and 31 B.C. These excessively precipitous natural barriers surrounding the high fort presented a formidable physical obstruction to the Roman assignment thus facilitating the call upon the Roman surveyor to design and set out a ramp at a navigable angle of elevation to reach Herod’s Castle at the top of a seemingly inaccessible cliff face. The Roman Surveyor played by screen legend Anthony Quayle is shown using the authentic contemporaneous measuring device, The Groma, to lay out the trajectory and position of the proposed construction. However, shortly after carrying out this exercise he is shot in the neck by an arrow while still outside his tent and about to instruct his building team. The movie makes a whole-hearted attempt to reconstruct the events as they actually occurred further demonstrating the very popular directorial inclusion of surveying to recreate the incident with realistic effect.

Amongst this series of cinematic segments you will experience the third such compilation of silver screen surveyors in a colourful variety of different circumstances featuring some surveying with the main actors doing the work. So once again I invite you to sit back and enjoy this latest wonderful pot-pourri of cinematic surveyor heroes.

# **Film Surveyors Reach the Top: Siege-busting Roman Surveyor at Masada and the Oscar Winning Oil Surveyor**

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The movies just keep coming which show surveyors plying their skills, as do more television shows and some advertisements. However up until 2008 there has not been any such film in which the main character of the movie carried out survey tasks and also won the Academy Award for the Best Actor in that role.

Well the great Irish actor Daniel Day-Lewis changed all of that with his starring portrayal of the aggressive oil prospector Daniel Plainview in one of the year's epic US western productions "There Will Be Blood !"

A very special excerpt from a Hollywood movie re-enacting the Roman siege of Masada has superstar screen legends Peter O'Toole and Anthony Quayle in the roles as the two main Roman protagonists pitted against 960 zealots of the Jewish Sicarii under the leadership of Eleazar ben Yair played by Peter Strauss.

## **2. SURVEYING MOVIES REACH THE PINNACLE**

In surveying terminology we refer to the peak of our measurements as the zenith and two of the movies contained within this latest compilation of Hollywood style films bearing material which is associated with land surveying achieve this dizzy height both figuratively and literally.

### **(a) There Will Be Blood**

As in many areas of entertainment there are numerous awards bestowed upon the creators and participants responsible for the more memorable movies produced for public consumption but the greatest prize is unquestionably the Oscar presented by the American Film Academy. In each year there are only four recipients of the Best Actor category with two of them being for the supporting roles. In 2008 the Academy Award for Best Actor was given to Daniel Day-Lewis for his lead role in the western saga "There Will Be Blood !" in which his Jekyll and Hyde character Daniel Plainview is engaged in three separate scenes using the surveying instrument called the transit in the USA and the theodolite in most other nations. It is a dark drama about a prolific oil explorer of the late 1800's oil rush in the US west who starts off the story showing glimpses of moral fortitude and generosity of nature by accepting an orphan boy to care for as his own. However, any resemblance to ethics and propriety are soon dispersed with the manifestation of the evilness within him. His first two surveying scenes are typical of the method-actor authenticity of Daniel but his third incident has certainly been engineered with copious artistic license. There is even a fourth scene during which he tells

someone that he had previously worked with a surveying company in one of the eastern US cities (I believe !)......

You would not call this production an “action” movie but whatever parts possess elevated animation accentuate strong violence. The intense struggle within the main character between good and evil appears to be the main theme of the screen play ultimately resulting in him being overwhelmed by his dark alter ego. Whatever conflict within himself that he is struggling with he certainly does not allow this to interfere with his surveying expertise which first comes to our attention when he is surveying a prospective site for the establishment of an oil rig to explore the sub-strata for its oil bearing capacity.

The second surveying clip is not dissimilar to the first in the accurate way in which the main character once again carries out the location and siting of another oil rig with his adopted son acting as his assistant. During the movie there is also a brief dialogue between Daniel and one of his intended victims where he informs the individual that he had previously worked in a surveying company in another location to offer credibility to his self espousals of prospecting prowess.

Just when I thought that Daniel Day-Lewis had provided me with three memorable moments as the surveyor in his Oscar winning role he pulled a real rabbit out of his hat in what I consider a very unique adaptation of the surveying skills that he had obviously mastered for the historical realism of the screenplay. After drinking himself into a rather inebriated state following his murder of one of the other characters he engages in a bit of indoor shooting gallery improvisation by picking off pieces of the house fine china crockery one by one regularly monitoring his marksmanship by peering through his surveyor’s transit instrument. Most intriguing and certainly unparalleled in any movie that I have ever watched !

### **(b) Masada**

While I was in the USA in 2003 to attend the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Conference at Phoenix in Arizona I visited two friends in Texas one of whom worked with the Texas Department of Transport (TexDOT) in Dallas. One of the surveyors who worked with Martha had heard of my two DVD movie compilations of “Surveyors in Hollywood Movies.” When I gave a special preview presentation to Martha and Barbara’s friends this Texan surveyor Rudy most surprisingly presented me with my very own copy of the movie “Masada” and I was absolutely thrilled to watch this film during which the screen legend Anthony Quayle portrayed the role of Rubrius Gallus who was the leading Roman Gromaticus (or land surveyor) bearing the responsibility of designing and constructing the approach ramp up the side of the cliff to breach the impregnable Herod fortress fortified by that man between 37 and 31 B.C.

This siege took place around late 72 A.D./early 73 A.D. and Quayle is shown setting out the ramp construction with the contemporaneous genuine Roman surveying instrument the groma! Thus once again the Director of this film, Boris Sagal, did his research well particularly with regard to the inclusion of this authentic Roman surveying device which had

its provenance exposed when the layers of encrusted lava were peeled back from the ancient Roman town of Pompeii frozen in time under the frightening eruption of Mount Vesuvius on 27 August 79 A.D. south east of Rome in what is now modern Italy. Hence the artifact uncovered from this legendary archaeological site is uncannily within a few years proximity to the replica utilised by the cinema legend himself ! This movie is a recreation of an actual historic incident involving the tragic saga of a people's struggle against oppression during which over 950 Jewish zealots perished and, if the movie has its facts correct in detail, then we lost a surveyor as well because as he is explaining the ramp survey and construction to his building party Rubrius Gallus is shot in the neck with an arrow by a sniper-archer and killed!

Whatever angle you view this film from it is an incredible coincidence that I have left this most excellent Hollywood style movie until now before I can premiere this surveying portrayal at such a momentous Surveying Conference not all that far from where the original event took place. It gives me a scintillating sense of excitement to actually contemplate visiting the arena around which such an amazing part of world history unfolded.

### **3. MORE MOVIES WITH SURVEYORS**

After those first two mega-surveying spectacles it is most difficult to match them for the sheer power of their surveying content along with the screen legends who filled the roles of the surveyors in each movie. Nevertheless amongst the remaining cinema scenes there will still be witnessed some curious adaptations of surveying to complement the story line as well the occasional main actor filling the part of the surveyor character in some films.

Most of the remainder of the movies have background surveying scenes like "The Body" with Antonio Banderas, the remake of the western "3.10 To Yuma" with Russell Crowe, "Timeline" with Billy Connolly and "Lightning: Fire In The Sky" with John Schneider and Stacy Keach. There is a more extensive vision of surveyors at work during a chase in the Henry Fonda western called "C'era una volta ail West" (translated as "Once Upon a Time in the West") during which Charles Bronson is also seen stepping out and staking the position of a proposed building in one of the outback towns. In two of the movies, "Thir13en Ghosts" and the Bond classic "Dr. No" it is only surveying equipment which you will see in the scene settings while in the TV movie series "Inspector Morse" with John Thaw in the lead role one episode titled "Sins of the Father" has none other than a card carrying member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors identified as one of the principal conspirators in a property/tax fraud which propagates a number of murders of some of the others implicated in the swindle. In the very "B" grade "The Phantom of Hollywood" Jack plays the role as a disgruntled actor who terrorizes the old site of the film studio at which he previously performed by killing off the site surveyors who have been sent to measure up the land for a proposed redevelopment of the area.

To start off the main Hollywood movies I will show you a movie from Director Werner Herzog called "Fitzcarraldo" in which an eccentric and singularly driven Irishman named Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald attempts to materialize his dream of building an Opera House in the Peruvian jungle so that he can host the great Caruso in a concert within it. At the earlier stages

of the siting of this over-ambitious monument to lunacy Fitzcarraldo, as Fitzgerald has renamed himself to more fully reflect the European flavour of his venture, carries out his own surveying work in the middle of the dense rainforest to accurately position the structure.

#### **4. SOME TV SHOWS WITH SURVEYING**

Many of the popular television programs have also seen it suitable to include surveyors in their story plots.

Three of the shows that I have in this DVD are “Stargate SG1”, “Blueheelers” (an Australian police drama) and the German cult show “Inspector Rex” with the German Shepherd detective’s assistant, Rex, while I have two more TV advertisements from the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and McDonald’s Restaurants.

One very popular television series called “Alias” has the main character, Sidney, played by voluptuous femme fatale Jennifer Garner, acting undercover as a surveyor on top of a bridge overpass in Paris in surveillance of a truck which was supposed to be carrying an abductee. Resplendent in red designer hard hat just after catching sight of the subject vehicle with the automatic level Sidney abseils off the overpass onto the roof of the moving van, cuts a hole through the top and drops in a gas capsule to immobilize the terrorists. However when she busts open the door of the van she finds that she has been hoodwinked because there is no one inside. A great action scene of a female surveyor/spy in full fly !

#### **5. BROCK REFERENCE SYSTEM FOR MOVIE SURVEY CONTENT**

An indispensable part of my papers on Hollywood movies with surveying scenes is my original reference system to quickly identify what is likely to be found in the movie listed. This system is as follows:

**VS** Verbal reference to surveyors/surveying only

**BS** Background scene/s of surveyors or surveying equipment

**SS** Main character or one of the stars is a surveyor or surveys

**MS** Main plot of movie is based around a surveyor/surveying

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

I am sure that you will agree with me that there are an incredible amount of Hollywood style movies which bear surveying content of some level. In fact if you read my first two papers on this topic from various other Surveying Conferences all over the world you will discover that the number of such films has gone well over 100 !!! And, as was proven last year, the level at which surveying is being introduced into the storylines and the top of the range actors and actresses who are being cast into the prime role as the surveyor has reached the highest levels

of the cinema community. I would like you to also remember that my movie collection and list of possible films with surveying content are not documentary style productions, and such series as “The Shape of the World”, “Seven Wonders of the Industrial World” and “Most Extreme” contain many instances of surveyors throughout their content so the number of celluloid snips swells to mammoth proportions when all of these such scenes are added to the vast number which I have already been successful in tracking down.

My final editorial comment in this paper is to welcome you all to the world of Hollywood Surveying Movies and to encourage you to sit back crack open some popcorn and a beer and enjoy this extra special compendium of cinematic surveying pleasures portraying your profession in a light which may surprise you.

## DEDICATION

It would be my honour to dedicate this latest DVD cut especially for the Israel FIG Working Week to an outcome of enduring peace in the Middle East so that the Holy Land may truly reflect the love and spirit from the revered hearts of the prophets and holy men who gave the world hope during a time when oppression seemed to overwhelm their environment.

## APPRECIATION

May I take this opportunity to thank the people who have helped and encouraged me to continue my never ending quest to track down all of these great surveying movies:

Kerima-Gae Topp from Parramatta, Australia  
Rudy from Dallas, Texas, USA  
Gordon Andreassend from Hong Kong  
Russell & Louisa Wenholz from Canberra, Australia

## REFERENCE:

**John F. Brock**, “Superstar Surveying: Hollywood Style !! (V)”, Paper and DVD presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Surveyors Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, 30 April, 2007.

**John F. Brock**, “Hollywood Movie Surveyors: The ‘R’ Rated Version (IV)”, Paper and DVD presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Surveyors Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, 30 April, 2007.

**John F. Brock**, “From Glitzy Glamour to Swampy Slog: Look What TV Thinks of Surveying !!!”, Paper and DVD presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> South East Asian Surveyors Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, 30 April, 2007.

## CINEMANIA ON LINE – THE INTERNET

E! Online – The Internet

Reel.com

Amazon.com.uk

us.imdb.com

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

**John Brock** holds a Bach of Surveying (UNSW, 1978), MA Egyptology (Mac. Uni.,2000) Registered Surveyor NSW (1981), Licensed Surveyor QLD (1990), Rose Atkins Assoc., Blacktown (10 years), H. Ramsay & Co., Rosehill (5 years), Total Surveying Solutions (4 months) surveying for 35 years, Honorary Fellow ACSM 2008 Fellow of ISA, former Vice Pres., committee, convenor of PR & History Subcommittees ISNSW, papers to Survey Congresses in Sydney, Cairns, Perth, Newcastle, Launceston, Queenstown, NZ, Brisbane, Little Rock, Las Vegas and Hawaii, USA, Port Moresby, FIG Belgium, San Diego, FIG Washington, USA and Canada 2002. Surveying History Seminars in Sydney 1991, '94, '96, '97 (paper) & 2003 (paper) Paper to the inaugural FIG Congress History Seminar Brighton U.K.1998, ACSM Arizona, FIG Paris, RICS London, Hong Kong 2003, FIG Athens, Jakarta, Auckland, NZ 2004, FIG Cairo, Brunei 2005, ACSM Florida USA, Jasper, Canada, FIG Congress Munich 2006, FIG Hong Kong, SEASC Christchurch NZ 2007,ACSM Spokane Washington USA, FIG Stockholm, Sweden 2008 Halloran Award 1996 for contributions to history of surveying, Professional Surveyor of the Year 2002 at ISNSW Excellence Awards FIG Article of the Month March 2005 for “Four Surveyors of the Gods: In the New Kingdom of Egypt – c.1400 B.C.” Life member Rundle Foundation for Egyptian Archaeology, Foundation member Australian Nat. Maritime Museum, Friends of Nat. Museum of Australia, Bradman Legacy Member National Trust of Australia, Historic Houses Trust of Australia, Friends of Bradman Museum, Royal Aust. Historical Society, Society of Aust Genealogists, Surveyors Historical Society of the USA, Aust. Society for the History of Engineering and Technology , International Map Collectors Society, Parramatta & District Historical Society, Brush Farm Historical Society, Prospect Heritage Trust.

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## Appendix A

### NOTE:

The following movies **shown in bold type** will be run in this current movie compilation. The other movies listed are suspected to have surveying in them, but not all of them have been obtained and viewed so thus they have not yet been added to this video. Furthermore the movies numbered from 1/ through to 59/ can be obtained by looking at my other two papers numbered 1/ and 2/ as listed in the reference section of this paper, and, if you may never have come across these two papers/presentations before, I would heartily recommend that you seek them out for the great enjoyment of your spare time.

60/    **The Draughtsman's Contract**

SS, Comedy/Drama, Rated M, (1982)

Director:     Peter Greenaway

Starring:    Anthony Higgins, Janet Suzman, Anne-Louise Lambert

A “ladies’ man” draughtsman, very conceited and scheming, surveys and paints portraits of the estate of the husband of an English noblewoman. When it comes time to collect payment, the lady negotiates a fee which involves sexual favours.

61/    **Masada**

SS, Drama,(1981)

**Director: Boris Sagal**

**Starring: Peter O'Toole, Peter Strauss, Barbara Carrera, Anthony Quayle,**

**David Warner and Giulia Pagano.**

**True story about a group of 960 Jews called the Sicarii who occupy Herod the Great's former castle in about 72 A.D. atop an impregnable precipice locally known as Masada, and are besieged by nearly 5,000 Roman troops who are fanatical about getting them out of there as a demonstration of their absolute rule. Quayle, as the surveyor/engineer Rubrius Gallus, surveys the topography and devises the construction of a massive ramp to provide access to the castle. However, when he is out of the tent alongside his authentic replica Roman groma surveying instrument about to explain his formulation to his assistants he is shot in the neck by an arrow and ultimately dies.**

62/    **Hellfighters**

SS, Action/Adventure, (1968)

Director:     Andrew V. McLaglen



**Starring:** John Wayne, Katherine Ross, Jim Hutton and Vera Miles

The story of macho oil well blaze fire fighters and their wives, in which John Wayne plays “Chance” Buckman, the CEO of a company that extinguishes oil well fires. A touch of surveying is seen in this action movie.

**63/ Lightning: Fire From The Sky**

**BS, Action/Adventure, (2001)**

**Director:** David Giancola

**Starring:** John Schneider, Jesse Eisenberg, Michele Greene, Gary Sandy,  
Barbara Crampton and Stacy Keach

**A severe lightning storm overwhelms the lead character, especially when he had not believed his son’s prediction of the disaster. Now he needs to learn to trust his son so that their family and the entire community is saved. Brief surveying incident once again.**

**64/ Young Mr. Lincoln**

**SS, Drama, (1939)**

**Director:** John Ford

**Starring:** Henry Fonda, Alice Brady, Marjorie Weaver, Arleen Whelan

A dramatised account of the early life of the American president, Abraham Lincoln, based on reality. Apart from a lawyer, he was also a self-taught surveyor who did quite a number of land surveys, including the marking of the whole town of Petersburg. No actual surveying is included but Abe does show some of his peg bashing skills when driving wedges into some timber logs at some rural exhibition show.

**65/ Once Upon a Time in the West (also known as “C’era Una Volta il West”)**

**BS, Western, (1968)**

**Director:** Sergio Leone

**Starring:** Henry Fonda, Claudia Cardinale, Jason Robards, Charles  
Bronson, Gabriele Ferzetti, Jack Elam and Keenan Wynn

**A spaghetti western made before they became fashionable, starring Henry Fonda as the archetypal bad guy dressed all in black. The usual love triangle western contest for the woman, with some brief survey scenes as a backdrop when an open wagon speeds dangerously close to the surveyor on his site. There is a curious spectacle near the middle of the film where Charles Bronson steps out and stakes the corners of a future building to be erected ! Accuracy in its purest form ?**

66/ Winston Churchill: The Wilderness Years

SS, Drama, (1981)

Director: Ferdinand Fairfax

Starring: Robert Hardy, Sian Phillips, Nigel Havers, Chloe Salaman

A chronicle of Winston Churchill's life between 1929, when he lost his place in cabinet, up to 1939, the year he became the Prime Minister of Great Britain, a period described by him as the most difficult in his life. Winston carries out some survey tasks, which he was recognised as having done

.

67/ The Iron Horse (1924) – MS, Starring George O'Brien as a railroad surveyor.

68/ Canadian Pacific (1949) – MS, Starring Randolph Scott as a railroad surveyor.

69/ Les Arpenteurs (1971, Switzerland) – MS, Title means "The Surveyors".

70/ Zan Boko (1988, Africa) – MS, Story of surveyors in Africa.

71/ Clive of India (1935) – BS, Starring Ronald Colman.

72/ The Baron of Arizona (1950) – BS, Starring Vincent Price.

73/ Killers of Kilimanjaro (1959) – SS, Starring Robert Taylor, Anthony Newley, Anne Aubrey.

74/ The Knack and How To Get It (1965) – BS, Starring Rita Tushingham, Michael Crawford.

75/ Stark (1993) – BS, Starring Ben Elton.

76/ The Post Mistress – also known as La Postiere (1992, Canada) SS.

77/ Blackfly (1991) – BS, Animation directed by Christopher Hinton.

78/ Lantliv (1975) – BS, Starring Jacqueline Laurent, Chris Chittell and Eric Edwards II.

79/ Daniel Boone (1936)– MS, Rated PG, Starring George O'Brien, Heather Angel

Boone Surveys and explores territories around Boonesborough.

80/ Congo Crossing (1956) – MS, Starring Rex Ingram, Peter Lorre, Virginia Mayo, Michael Pate.

Louise O'Connell and heroic surveyor David Carr end up alone in the jungle.

81/ Curse of the Swamp Creature (1966) – MS Oil Surveyors come across an isolated laboratory.

**82/ The Phantom of Hollywood**

**MS, Drama, (1974)**

**Director: Gene Levitt**

**Starring: Skye Aubrey, Jack Cassidy, Jackie Coogan, Broderick**

**Crawford and Peter Haskell**

**Jack Cassidy in the role of a disgruntled former movie studio “B” actor attempts to dissuade the future development of the land which he has insanely and obsessively claimed as his own domain by killing off the site surveyors in a sort of vendetta as a phantom of vengeance wreaking terror on the environment. Quite appropriate that the acting and screenplay may also be categorized in that lesser level of attainment !.**

83/ Fighting Gringo (1939) – BS, Starring George O’Brien, Bill Cody Jr.

A man has his land survey falsified and then he is framed for murder.

84/ Stage Coach to Denver (1946) MS, Starring Allan Lane, Martha Wentworth, Peggy Stewart, Ray Barcroft.

Red Ryder exposes Coonskin’s land survey hoax.

85/ Ride Clear of Diablo (1954) SS, Starring Audie Murphy, Susan Cabot, Dan Duryea, Russell Johnson.

Railway surveyor Murphy goes after rustlers.

86/ Lugar en el Mundo (1992) MS, A hasbeen geological engineer surveys land for his patron..

87/ Detenuto in attesa di giudizio (1971) MS, Story of an Italian land surveyor who has lived in Sweden.

88/ Zaskasnjalo palno lunic (1997) MS, Wanderer across Bulgaria surveys strange, new world forming.

89/ Young Pioneers’ Christmas BS, Starring Michael O’Herlihy, Linda Purl and Roger Kern.

Surveyors appear in the background of the developing life on the prairie in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, which features a young pioneer family to depict their hardships and joys.

90/ The Wall, BS

**91/ Dr. No, BS, Starring Sean Connery.**

**An old survey/navigation instrument is seen in the background décor.**

**92/ The Body**

**BS, Drama, (2001)**

**Director: Jonas McCord**

**Starring: Antonio Banderas, Olivia Williams and John Shrapnel**

**Background scenes of surveying are shown on the archaeological dig site where an obsessed priest is driven by his singular quest to locate the body of Jesus Christ and thinks he has !**

93/ The Cartographer's Girlfriend (1987), SS, Starring Marissa Chibas, George Feaster

**94/ Inspector Morse: The Sins of the Fathers**

**SS, Murder mystery drama, (1990)**

**Director: Peter Hammond**

**Starring: John Thaw, Kevin Whately, Andy Bradford, Trevor Martin,  
Paul Mooney and Simon Slater**

**Two sons from a family who run a failing brewery in the country area of London are murdered, along with their solicitor, who is implicated in a fraudulent money lending scandal. The chartered surveyor, a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors nonetheless, who is also a director of the brewing company, is caught out in making an inflated valuation of the company's land holdings to secure the excessive loan.**

**95/ Timeline**

**BS, Drama, (2003)**

**Starring Paul Walker, Frances O'Connor, Gerard Buller & Billy Connolly.**

**Once again surveying is seen in the background on an archaeological dig.**

**96/ Thir13en Ghosts**

**BS, Horror/Mystery/Thriller, (2001)**

**Director: Steve Beck**

**Starring: Tony Shalhoub, Embeth Davidtz and Matthew Lillard**

**Cyrus Kriticos dies leaving his house to his nephew Arthur Kriticos (played by Shalhoub) and his family complete with all of its contents consisting of antique surveying equipment displayed in glass cabinets along with a malicious band of nasty ghosts who set about terrorizing them out of the house, but Arthur sets about exorcising them out of the premises in a long supernatural struggle !**

97/ Poirot: Death on the Nile(2004),BS,Starring David Suchet, James Fox & Emily Blunt

**98/ Fitzcarraldo**

**SS, Drama, (1982)**

**Director: Werner Herzog**

**Starring: Klaus Kinski as Fitzcarraldo (aka Brian Sweeney Fitzgerald),  
Jose Lewgov, Miguel Angel Fuentes, Paul Hiltcher**

**Fitzcarraldo attempts the unlikely project of building an opera house in the middle of the Peruvian jungle. He does his own surveying in the process of devising a route for a**

**railway line to transport building material and later on clientele for the opera house through virtually impenetrable country which is heavily overgrown, excessively steep along with gushing wide rivers.**

99/ Down, Out and Dangerous (1995) BS, Starring Richard Thomas, Bruce Davison and Cynthia Ettinger

100/ The Invaders (1912) BS, Starring Art Acord, William Eagle Shirt, Francis Ford and Ethel Grandin.

The U.S. Army and the Indians sign a peace treaty. However, a group of surveyors trespass on the Indians' land and violate the treaty. The army refuses to listen to the Indians' complaints, and the surveyors are killed by the Indians. A vicious Indian war ensues, resulting in an Indian attack on an army fort

101/ The Texas Streak (1926) BS, Starring Hoot Gibson, Blanche Mehaffey, Alan Roscoe and James A. Marcus.

Gibson plays Chad Pennington, an extra for an on-location motion picture company when he and his friends become stranded through loss of their stage tickets, Chad bluffs his way into a job as a guard for some surveyors who are caught in the middle of a water power feud.

102/ Across The Lake (1997) MS, Starring Agnieszka Wagner, Nikola Ristanovski.

103/ AVP: Alien vs. Predator (2004) BS, Starring Sanaa Lathan, Raoul Bova and Lance Henriksen

104/ Weekend War (Us Army) (1988) BS, Starring Stephen Collins, Daniel Stern and Evan Mirand.

Army reservists are sent to Honduras to build a runway and my spy says that there is a brief shot of a US army survey engineer behind a transit while in the process of surveying a bridge reconstruction.

105/ My Life Without Me (2003) BS, Starring Sarah Polley, Amanda Plummer and Scott Speedman.

According to my reporter who sent a small synopsis of the survey scene from this film it involves the surveyor dancing in the daylight nearby to his theodolite with two superb small girls ?? I must watch this one to get my own idea.

106/ The Lord of the Rings - Trilogy (2001, 2002 & 2003) BS,

Surveyors are credited in the list at the end of the movie for contributions to the filming of the triple saga.

### **107/ 3.10 To Yuma**

**BS, Western/Action/Drama, (2007)**

**Director: James Mangold**

**Starring: Russell Crowe, Christian Bale, Logan Lerman & Dallas Roberts**

**During this remake of the 1957 Glenn Ford/Van Heflin original of the same name you will see a very brief view of surveyors at work on the town limits.**

**108/ There Will Be Blood**

**MS, Western/Drama, (2008)**

**Director: Sergio Leone**

**Starring: Daniel Day-Lewis, Claudia Cardinale, Jason Robards, Charles**

**Bronson, Gabriele Ferzetti, Jack Elam and Keenan Wynn**

**A dark western set during the late nineteenth/early twentieth century oil rush in the US West with the main character Daniel Plainview (played by Daniel Day-Lewis) portrayed with a Jekyll and Hyde personality which starts off demonstrating some glimpses of moral redemption when he unofficially adopts a young orphaned boy only to succumb to the darker side of his alter ego as the movie progresses into a strongly violent mood. Despite the rather slow nature of the plot our 2008 Academy Award Best Actor recipient makes it worth our while to watch the saga as he carries out some “field” surveying in three separate scenes of the epic engaging the usage of the US transit (theodolite) surveying instrument to make his determinations. The third event is most unique when a well inebriated Plainview, after bludgeoning a man to death, sits in the living room of his house with his long rifle taking pot shots at an improvised shooting gallery made up of the residence’s choicest crockery dinnerware then checking his progress by getting a surveyor’s eyeview of the carnage through his transit !**

**HAPPY VIEWING TO ALL !**

**I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR ANY MOVIES WITH SURVEYING SCENES IN THEM AND PLEASE LET ME KNOW ABOUT THEM**