

The Last Mile (1932 film)

The Last Mile is a 1932 American pre-Code crime drama film directed by Samuel Bischoff and starring Howard Phillips and Preston Foster. The picture is based on John Wexley's 1930 Broadway play, *The Last Mile*.^[1] Howard Phillips appeared in both the play and the film but in different roles. In 1959 the play was adapted a second time into a film of the same name starring Mickey Rooney.

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Plot

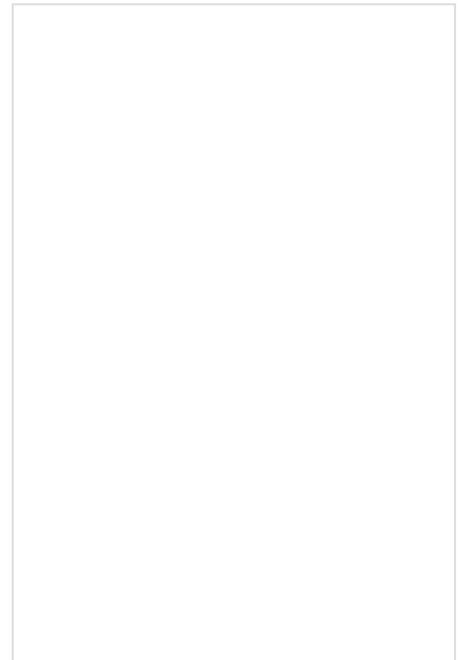
The movie presents life in a prison where men are on death row. Some of them are wrongfully accused and convicted; there is nothing in their future but the electric chair.

Richard Walters is condemned to death for a crime he claims he did not commit. While the drama inside the prison unfolds, his friends on the outside are trying to find evidence that he is innocent.^[2]

Cast

- Howard Phillips as Richard "Dick" Walters, Cell 5
- Preston Foster as John "Killer" Mears, Cell 4
- George E. Stone as Joe Berg, Cell 1
- Noel Madison as D'Amoro, Cell 6
- Alan Roscoe as Kirby, Cell 7
- Paul Fix as Eddie Werner, Cell 8
- Al Hill as Fred Mayer, Cell 3
- Daniel L. Haynes as Sonny Jackson, Cell 2
- Frank Sheridan as Warden Frank Lewis
- Alec B. Francis as Father O'Connor
- Edward Van Sloan as Rabbi
- Louise Carter as Mrs. Walters

The Last Mile



Film poster

Directed by	Samuel Bischoff
Produced by	Samuel Bischoff
Written by	Seton I. Miller
Based on	play <i>The Last Mile</i> by John Wexley
Starring	Howard Phillips Preston Foster
Cinematography	Arthur Edeson
Edited by	Rose Loewinger
Production company	K.B.S. Productions
Distributed by	Sono Art-World Wide Pictures
Release date	August 17, 1932
Running time	75 minutes
Country	United States
Language	English

- Ralph Theodore as Pat Callahan, Principal Keeper
- Jack Kennedy as Mike O'Flaherty, Guard
- Albert J. Smith as Drake, Guard
- William Scott as Peddie, Guard
- Kenneth MacDonald as Harris, Guard
- Walter Walker as Governor Blaine

Notes

A clip from this film was used by progressive rock band Rush as their introduction to the song "Lock and Key" during its performance on the "Hold Your Fire" tour, later released on the "A Show of Hands" laserdisc. The VHS and DVD versions of the film omit the song.

Lobby card for *The Last Mile*

Both Spencer Tracy and Clark Gable played Killer Mears onstage in 1930, Tracy on Broadway and Gable later in Los Angeles, which benefited the careers of both men.

References

1. *The Last Mile* performed on Broadway, Sam H. Harris Theatre, Feb.-Oct. 1930 (<http://www.ibdb.com/show.php?id=5262>) (IBDb.com)
2. Review Summary of "The Last Mile" (<https://movies.nytimes.com/movie/28352/The-Last-Mile/overview>), New York Times

Alan Roscoe in the film

External links

- *The Last Mile* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0023117/>) on IMDb
- *Synopsis* (<https://www.allmovie.com/movie/v28352>) at AllMovie
- *The Last Mile* (<https://archive.org/details/TheLastMile>) is available for free download at the Internet Archive

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