EMERGENCY ROOM

Mark Wekler

The police officer notices his prey's victim in a window through the Emergency Room doors. The man, a well-dressed sleuth, sits with his head on his clasped hands and a nodding as the officer checks his pocket watch. The officer can barely make out his name through the haze of human sweat and the odors of bacteria.

The officer makes a beeline for the door. He doesn't want to lose sight of his prey. He's been in this game long enough to know how important it is to move quickly. He can feel the weight of his gun as he approaches the door. He's got to get in before someone else does.

The officer takes off across the floor, the sound of his boots echoing through the corridors.

He finds the nurse and her staff gathered in the hall, ready to assist him.

"You did bring him to the ER, right?"

"Yes, sir. But he's not showing any symptoms. He's just a little confused.

The nurse adds, "The insurance company will handle it."

The officer nods, satisfied.

The Emergency Room at University Hospital is bustling with activity. Nurses are rushing from one patient to the next, doctors are making quick decisions, and the noise is deafening.

The door opens, and a man in a suit enters. He looks around, taking in the scene. He's got a sense of direction about him, as if he knows exactly what he's doing.

The man walks over to the nurse's station. "I need to see Mr. Richard.

The nurse frowns. "Mr. Richard is in the ICU.

The man shakes his head. "No, I mean Richard, the patient."

The nurse's expression softens. "I see. He's still in the ICU, I'm afraid."

The man nods, disappointed. "I'll come back tomorrow, then.

He turns and leaves the room, his steps measured and purposeful.

The officer watches him go, a sense of pride filling his chest. He's done his job, and now it's up to the nurses and doctors to take care of the patient. He steps back into the fray, ready to face whatever comes his way.

The sound of footsteps echoes through the hall, the officer's boots echoing off the polished floors.

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EVENTS
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MOVIES

READER'S GUIDE TO SAN DIEGO MOVIES

DUNCAN SHEPHERD

Horror Tongue - Charly's (with Robert De Niro) OCTOBER 28. "Charly" is the story of the life of a man who...tongue. A man who...tongue...tongue...tongue.

Orleans Time - Lee Shan's (with Bruce Willis) OCTOBER 28. "Orleans Time" is a thriller about a...tongue. A thriller about a...tongue...tongue...tongue.

The Last Queen - Robert De Niro's (with Jane Fonda) OCTOBER 28. "The Last Queen" is a film about a...tongue. A film about a...tongue...tongue...tongue.

Composer's Day - Robert De Niro's (with Jane Fonda) OCTOBER 28. "Composer's Day" is a...tongue. A...tongue...tongue...tongue.

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Farmer's Market, Pacific Beach

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Hamel's Bike Shop, Mission Beach

We got 150 responses to our ad in the Reader. We only got 5 from the ad in the Union Tribune.

Ow! not Puyallup, Old Town

We get more season subscriptions from the, rather than from the Aztec, the Triton Times, San Diego Magazine, and the KFSS Program Guide combined.

Old Globe Theatre, Balboa Park

We got about 500 responses to our ad in the Reader. We sent out our calls to everyone where they heard about us. We've gotten more responses from the Reader than from any other medium we've used — San Diego Magazine, the La Jolla Light, the college papers.

Roots Natural Foods, La Jolla

We got 145 responses to our two coupon ads in the Reader and they still keep coming.

San Diego Daily, Mission Beach

We spent $400 on advertising in the Peninsular and the P.O. Sentinel and got zero response. Our ads in the Reader have increased our web-in-business 30-45%.

Pacific Audio, Pacific Beach

I'm getting more business from my Reader ad than with the money I spent on the daily papers.

Strip-4, Golden Hills

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1967 OLDSMOBILE, 53,000 miles, 4-speed, blue, $2,000. 823-5575.

1968 BUICK 40,000 miles, 4-speed, $2,500. 823-4834.

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