The Many Hats of Robert Altman: A Life in Cinema

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http://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/110220
The Long Goodbye, based on Raymond Chandler's novel of the same name, was often compared by reviewers to earlier film adaptations of Chandler in the 1940s (i.e., *The Big Sleep* and *Murder, My Sweet*). Some critics seemed to appreciate the updated settings and characters chosen by Altman, even saying that he was “the best thing to happen to Raymond Chandler.” However, others argued that Altman and screenwriter Leigh Brackett strayed too far from the original novel's storyline.

### The Baroness Nina and her Brash Svengali

By NOEL DAVIES

The Baroness Nina von Pallandt and her husband, Baron Frederick von Pallandt, had been an enormously successful folk-singing duo as “Nina and Fred” in the 1960s. She also had become known as a mistress of author Clifford Irving at the time he was falsely claiming to have written the autobiography of reclusive Howard Hughes. The “Svengali” referred to is a third man in her life, manager John Marshall.

Altman’s films often garnered as much interest in Europe as they did in the U.S. This French reviewer not only praised the film, but explained that French audiences liked nonconformity, whereas the Americans might not.

Tony Macklin, who taught at the University of Dayton in Ohio, described his students’ reactions to *The Long Goodbye*.

“The Long Goodbye (1973)

*The Long Goodbye* is a wonderfully teachable film—I say this cautiously. I’m convinced that one has to prepare an audience for *The Long Goodbye*, but I don’t know how we do this.”

- Tony Macklin