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Evil killers from the past

## FILMS RESURRECT ACTS OF SAVAGERY

By Diane Nicholls

A PRIM retired schoolteacher and a grumpy pensioner are the unlikely figures at the centre of two notorious murder stories which scandalized nations in the 1950s and have been resurrected in controversial films.

Living within a few miles of each other in Medway the pair could not have known of each other's existence.

Both were jailed for horrific killings decades ago but have been haunted by the violence of the past in very different ways.

One cheated the hangman but was still not deterred from vicious crime and has ended up in prison yet again at the age of 73. At last with an assurance that the keys have been thrown away In complete contrast it was revealed this week that the other has secretly rebuilt a new life as a model of respectability in a village hideaway for the last 30 years.

\* (picture) Albert Goozee - the perverted pensioner with a violent past now behind bars once again

\* (picture) Rupert Graves and Julie Walters in a scene from the film "Intimate Relations"

One thing they do have in common is that in both stories the fact is stranger than fiction.

The televising of the 1995 film "Heavenly Creatures" on Tuesday night held special interest for neighbours of Hoo riding school boss Hilary Nathan.

For the 58-year-old former deputy head of Abbey Court special school Strood had just been unmasked in a blaze of publicity as the infamous killer Pauline Parker who served six years in jail for battering her mother to death.

The film depicts the 1954 killing in New Zealand which stunned the world because Parker was just 16 and her partner in crime Juliet Hulme was a year younger.

The girls were sentenced to five years in jail for what the prosecutor called a "coldly callously-planned murder committed by two highly intelligent and sound but precocious and dirty-minded little girls".

At the time the girls never denied the crime Police believed the motive was that Parker's mother had tried to end their intense friendship.

The film shows them luring her to a park where they took turns clubbing her to death. The producers are said to have drawn heavily on Parker's diaries kept before the murder in which she described herself as an outcast at school and misunderstood at home.

After their release both girls assumed different names and never contacted each other. But Hulme now the successful crime writer Anne Perry living in Scotland came forward two years ago to attack the film as grotesque and distorted.

Meanwhile no one guessed that the other teenager had moved into a windswept cottage on the other side of the world and devoted herself to the Catholic church and handicapped children.

This week grey-haired Miss Nathan was refusing answer the questions of the stream of national and television reporters who knocked at her door at Abbots Court children's riding school.

Neighbours said they were stunned by the revelations but felt pity for the woman they described as quiet well-spoken intelligent popular with her pupils who include disabled youngsters.

The mother of one 11-year-old pupil said: "I have no worries about my daughter continuing her lessons. I feel sorry for her that this has all come out when she has led such a blameless life all this time".

What little is known about Miss Nathan is that she obtained a BA degree at Auckland before training as a librarian and moving to Britain in 1965.

She re-trained as a teacher and taught at Abbey Court for 20 years mostly as deputy head before retiring two years ago to run her riding school and care for her 10 horses.

### Complete surprise

Kent County Council described her as a reliable employee whose past was a complete surprise. She had been taken on before police checks were introduced in the late 1970s but would have been recognized by the Department of Education as a suitable teacher.

She is a regular worshipper at English Martyrs Roman Catholic Church in Hoo and commits much of her time to prayer.

Penitence is not a quality which might be attributed to another notorious murderer Albert Goozee whose savage crime in 1954 inspired the film "Intimate Relations" due to be released this summer.

To his neighbours in Darrell Gardens Chatham he was a bitter old man who whinged about everything from cracked pavements to council tax.

To people who had heard his evil boasting he was a double-killer who had been sentenced to death and reprieved two hours before the execution.

He is also a paranoid schizophrenic who had served 15-years in Broadmoor and a dirty old man now probably destined to die in jail after indecently assaulting two schoolgirls.

But to cinema-goers the pervert is shortly to be personified by the dashing Rupert Graves with Julie Walters as his married mistress and the victim of what is portrayed as a crime of passion.

The glamorized treatment of sleazy story is bound to outrage families who have suffered at Goozee's hands.

People close to his previous home in Tamworth Staffs took a petition to the Home Office to have him evicted from their estate after he boasted about stabbing a neighbour.

Goozee was the lodger of Mrs Margareta Leakey who was found bludgeoned to death while her 14-year-old daughter Norma suffered fatal stab wounds.

He was sentenced to death for the lulling of the teenager but the case relating to the mother was left on the file.

Part of the case was that Norma would watch Goozee and her mother in bed threatening that if they tried to stop her she would tell her father sleeping in the next room.

His sentence was later commuted to life and he was held in Broadmoor. He was released on licence in 1971 but was recalled to prison twice before being jailed for wounding in 1982.

In 1993 he was released on licence and moved to Medway. He later transferred to secured sheltered housing in Chatham and was recalled on his life sentence last March.

When he was jailed in December for the indecent assaults the judge warned him he might never be released.

The names of the characters have been changed for the film. Graves plays a character called Harold Guppy while Margareta becomes Marjorie Beasley.

Actress Julie Walters says the film is "probably the most emotionally draining thing I have ever done" and believes everyone involved was "really a victim".