Alfred Hitchcock

Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock was born _____ the 13th of August, 1899. He was _____ English film director and producer. He is often referred to as the "**Master of Suspense**" _____ he was one of the first film makers to introduce the elements the *suspense* and *psychological thriller* genres in cinema. He first started making successful *silent films* and early *talkies* in Britain and became renowned _____ England's best director. Then, Hitchcock moved _____ Hollywood in 1939, and became a U.S. citizen in 1955.

Public figure

Hitchcock became a highly visible public figure through interviews, film trailers, and the ten years in _____ he hosted the television programme *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (1955–1965). He also _____ brief appearances, technically called *cameo appearances*, in his own films. For example, he _____ seen struggling to get a double bass onto a train (*Strangers on a Train*), walking dogs out of a pet shop (*The Birds*), fixing a neighbour's clock (*Rear Window*), as a shadow (*Family Plot*), sitting _____ a table in a photograph (*Dial M for Murder*), and missing a bus (*North by Northwest*).

Directorial style

Hitchcock also created for himself a distinguishable directorial style. The term *Hitchcockian* is now often _____ to designate his style of film making. Hitchcock's stylistic trademarks include the use of camera movement that mimics a person's gaze, forcing viewers to engage in a form of *voyeurism*. In addition, he framed shots to maximize anxiety, fear, or empathy, and used innovative forms of film editing. His work often features fugitives on the run alongside "icy blonde" female characters. He often portrays characters _____ psychological problems. _____ instance, some of his films feature characters struggling in their relationships _____ their mothers.

An influential director

Hitchcock is now recognized as one of _____ most influential directors in the history of cinema. He directed more _____ fifty feature films in a career spanning six decades. His first thriller, *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1927), helped shape the thriller genre in film. His 1929 film, *Blackmail*, is often cited as the first British sound feature film, while *Rear Window* (1954), *Vertigo* (1958), *North by Northwest* (1959) and *Psycho* (1960) are regularly ranked among the greatest films of _____ time.

Death

Hitchcock died aged 80 in his Bel Air home _____ renal failure on 29 April 1980.

A. Can you work out what the missing words are? Fill in the blanks with your own ideas.

B. Mark these sentences as T (True) or F (False).

1. Alfred Hitchcock was born in the United States. ___
2. Hitchcock used to appear briefly in most of his films. ___
3. Hitchcock was interested in the psychology of his characters. ___
4. Hitchcock's career as a film maker lasted for sixty years. ___