Not much liked at the time of its release, *The Night the Prowler* (Jim Sharman, 1978) may yet find the audiences and attention it deserves. It didn’t fit into any of the popular categories of Australian filmmaking in the heady days of the ‘revival’ and its critical reception would not have encouraged the ticket-buying public. Thirty years on, its confronting content (the middle classes getting it in the neck), style (elliptical) and generic affiliation (veering between comedy and thriller) mean that it stands up surprisingly well to scrutiny. Deb Verhoeven’s essay goes some distance to accounting for this, as well as providing valuable insights into how the production came to be set up. Patrick White was a big name but perhaps more so to the reading public than to cinema audiences, and Jim Sharman and producer Anthony Buckley had their work cut out bringing the project to fruition. Verhoeven also provides an astute analysis of the film’s reception, suggesting that not everyone was immune to what the film offered.

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