



Alma Lucy Reville 1899-1982 aka Lady Hitchcock

Screen writer & film editor

Alma was born at 69 Caroline Street in the St Ann's area to Matthew and Lucy two lacemakers who had married at the Castle Gate Congregational chapel. The family moved to London when she was young, as her father gained a job at Twickenham Film Studios. Reville often visited her father at work and eventually obtained a job there as a tea girl.

At 16, she was promoted to the position of cutter, which involved assisting directors in editing the motion pictures. Of editing, she wrote "the art of cutting is Art indeed, with a capital A, and is of far greater importance than is generally acknowledged" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alma_Reville_-_cite_note-4

She continued to work there as a script writer and director's assistant. These roles enabled her to become involved in areas of film-making a woman would then rarely have access. Twickenham Film Studio, closed in 1919 but she was given a job at Paramount's Famous Players-Lasky, a subsidiary of the American company based in Islington, where she met her future husband, Alfred Hitchcock. The first film she worked on with Hitchcock was *Woman to Woman*, she was film editor, and he was art director and assistant editor. As well as editing, writing and other production roles, she also appeared on screen in 2 films - *The Life Story of David Lloyd George* (1918) *The Lodger: A Story of the London Fog* (1927).

Alma was a successful Director, talented screen writer and film maker in her own right before she married Alfred Hitchcock with whom she collaborated and co-wrote. Alma was the only person to whom Alfred deferred, she can even take credit for there being music during the famous shower scene in *Psycho*, as it was on her insistence that Hitchcock, who had wanted the scene played out in silence, changed his mind.

Lawrence Geary, a local man and Chair of the Lady Bay Community Association, was instrumental in having a **Plaque** set up to commemorate Alma in 1999. This is in St Ann's Library -near to the computers- as this is close to where she lived on Caroline Street and her house has since been demolished. There is also a plaque on one of the Broadway cinema seats.