

The Bates Motel

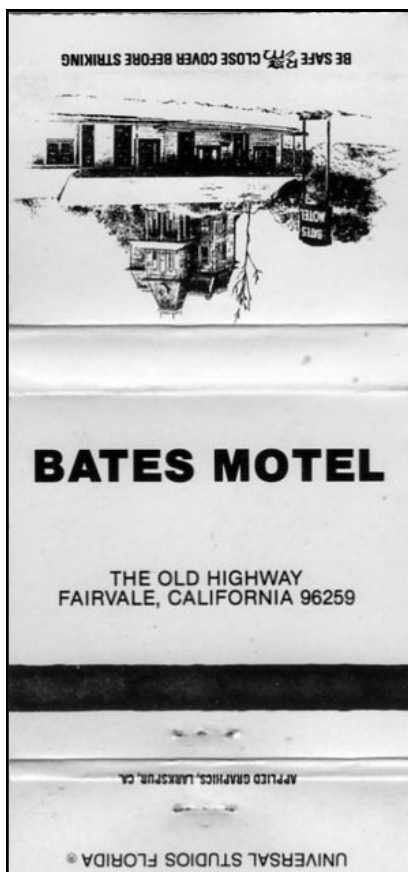
The Bates Motel, of course, comes to us from Alfred Hitchcock's 1960 thriller, *Psycho*. It starred Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, John Gavin, Vera Miles, and Martin Balsam, and was based on the 1959 novel of the same name by Robert Bloch. The film centers on an encounter between a secretary, Marion Crane (Leigh), who ends up at a secluded motel after stealing money from her employer, and the motel's owner-manager, Norman Bates (Perkins), and its aftermath.

Psycho was seen as a departure from Hitchcock's previous film *North by Northwest*, having been filmed on a low budget, in black-and-white, and by a television crew. The film initially received mixed reviews, but outstanding box-office returns prompted reconsideration which led to overwhelming critical acclaim and four Academy Award nominations, including Best Supporting Actress for Leigh and Best Director for Hitchcock.

Psycho is now considered one of Hitchcock's best films and praised as a major work of cinematic art by international film critics and scholars. Often ranked among the greatest films of all time, it set a new level of acceptability for violence, deviant behavior and sexuality in American films, and is widely considered to be the earliest example of the slasher film genre.

After Hitchcock's death in 1980, Universal Studios began producing follow-ups: three sequels, a re-make, a made-for-television spin-off, and a prequel television series, set in the 2010s. In 1992, the Library of Congress deemed the film "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant" and selected it for preservation in the National Film Registry. [[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psycho_\(1960_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psycho_(1960_film))]

The *Psycho* house was one of the big draws of the Universal Tram Tour, back in 1964, and has continued to be instantly recognizable in recent years. In 1984, the *Psycho*



house was used in the *Knight Rider* episode "Halloween Knight". The film *Man on the Moon*, a biopic about Andy Kaufman's life story, was filmed in 1999 at an area near the house. While in production, Jim Carrey, who portrayed Kaufman in the film, dressed up as "mother" and leapt out from behind the *Psycho* house with a rubber knife and jumped on the tram, scaring the passengers, including the guides. The tour guides and tram operators reported the incident to the film crew who told them that the person in the costume was none other than Carrey himself.

