



Announces:



THE SEVEN-UPS/THE VERDICT

Composed and Conducted by **DON ELLIS/JOHNNY MANDEL**
Intrada Special Collection Volume ISC 47

The 1973 20th Century Fox film *The Seven-Ups* was a spin-off of the '71 film *The French Connection*, following ruthless cop Buddy Russo (Roy Scheider) – Popeye Doyle's sidekick from the original film. Less an action movie and more a late-stage police procedural, the film is structured around nitty-gritty investigative work, rather than slam-bang action sequences. First-time director Philip D'Antoni was known for providing one extended, breakneck chase in each of his films. *The Seven-Ups* is no exception.

Don Ellis brings the same dour intensity that made his score for the earlier film so memorable, including a discordant string driven main title reminiscent of Bernard Herrmann. While the chase sequence may not have been scored, many scenes hang on the music for their emotional power, including some of the most paranoia-inducing car wash sequences ever filmed. The score wraps up with a downbeat, poignant end title, containing a suppressed theme struggling to emerge.

Given that Ellis had *The French Connection* on his resume, it may be surprising to find that he was not the first choice to score *The Seven-Ups*. That distinction went to composer Johnny Mandel, who's score was replaced by Ellis. Mandel's score is less gritty, less risk-taking, offering more heroism and bigger swing, yet trying to retain some of the atonal style of the previous film.

As an added bonus to the two scores for *The Seven-Ups*, Intrada also presents Mandel's complete score to the 1982 Paul Newman legal drama *The Verdict*, written by David Mamet. Newman plays a broken-down ambulance chasing attorney who hides behind pinball and drinks, until he finds that one case that can redeem him. Mandel offers a restrained score for orchestra and chorus, mainly grounding the viewer in the importance of each of the character's setbacks. The score's restraint ebbs during the end titles, delivering a fitting and ethereal close to the film.

This release was assembled from the original multi-track elements in stereo sound. Mandel's *The Seven-Ups* does contain some compromised sound due to the aging of the materials, but remains highly listenable.

This release is limited to 1200 units.

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