

( TELEVISION )

## SIENNA BECOMES HITCHCOCK'S MOST ICONIC BLONDE

Sienna Miller takes on her toughest role yet as the director's famous obsession

From Grace Kelly to Kim Novak, Alfred Hitchcock's penchant for the blondes he cast in his films was well-documented. Now, his most intimate and ultimately destructive relationship has been made into a one-off TV drama with a modern-day famous blonde taking the lead in *The Girl*.

Sienna Miller plays Tippi Hedren, a then unknown actress chosen by the 64-year-old director to play Melanie Daniels in his 1963 film *The Birds*.

Hitchcock, played by the brilliant Toby Jones, became sexually obsessed with the 31-year-old after spotting her in an advert on US television. After getting to know her, Hitchcock soon began controlling all aspects of Hedren's life, pursuing her relentlessly and banning her from sharing cars with male co-stars, even though she was an adult with a young child (who would later become an actress herself, Melanie Griffith).

"It all started so well, like a real Hollywood fairytale, but Hitch couldn't or wouldn't control himself," explains writer of *The Girl* Gwyneth

Hughes. Set to challenge contemporary ideas of harassment and the hazy border between romantic and destructive love, this is likely to be Sienna's most significant on-screen role yet.

Hedren, who is now 82, told *Stylist*, "The obsession and my reaction to it has been portrayed beautifully. Although it is sometimes difficult to watch your own memories being reenacted before your eyes, I couldn't be happier about the way Sienna has captured me."

*The Girl*, will show on BBC2 later this year\*



SIENNA (ABOVE) CHANNELS THE ARCHETYPAL ICY BLONDE AS *THE BIRDS*-ERA TIPPI HEDREN (INSET)

WORDS: LIZZIE FOOK PHOTOGRAPHY: BEC.CO.UK; REX FEATURES \*THE DRAMA IS INSPIRED BY SPELLBOUND BY DONALD SPOTO (£8.99, ARROW), HITCHCOCK'S OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHER