

**P8640 PUNISHMENT PARK (USA, 1971)**  
(Other titles: Straffparken)

**Credits:** director/writer, Peter Watkins.

**Cast:** Paul Alelyanes, Carmen Argenziano, Stan Armsted.

**Summary:** Melodrama set in 1970s California. Set in the indeterminate future when escalation of the Vietnam and/or other Asian wars has intensified relations between the major powers and lead to an increase of anti-war demonstrations and draft evasion. Prisons are overflowing with protesters who are given a choice of prison sentences of 10-20 years or participating in a three-day endurance test in Punishment Park in the southern California. The participants are allowed three days to cross 57 miles of desert on foot to reach an American flag and obtain their freedom. They are pursued during this trek by National Guard soldiers. Filmed as a "live" reality television program which cuts back and forth between the players crossing the desert, the soldiers pursuing them, and offenders being tried by a tribunal with interviews of the various participants.

- Belmans, Jacques. "Punishment park?: Peter Watkins ou, l'obsession de la violence" Amis du film et de la television n.212 (Jan 1974), p. 8-9.
- Benoit, Claude. "Punishment park" Jeune cinema n.75 (Dec 1973-Jan 1974), p. 43-5.
- Boivin, Robert and Proulx, Bernard. "Punishment park" Telecine n.183-184 (Dec 1973-Jan 1974), p. 21-2.
- Crowdus, Gary. [Punishment park] Film society review 7/3 (Nov 1971), p. 25-6.
- Gaulier, Patrick. "Punishment park" Revue du cinema n.279 (Dec 1973), p. 117-19.
- Grant, Jacques. "Punishment park" Cinema 73 n.181 (Nov 1973), p. 132-3+
- Kerbel, Michael. [Punishment park] Village voice 16/45 (Nov 11, 1971), p. 75.
- MacDonald, Scott. "The cinema audience: Some new perspectives" Film criticism 3/3 (spring 1979), p. 34-5.
- Martin, Marcel. "Breve rencontre avec Peter Watkins" Ecran n.19 (Nov 1973), p. 33-5.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Punishment park" Ecran n.19 (Nov 1973), p. 64-5.
- Olsen, Claus Ib. "Punishment park" Kosmorama 19 (Mar 1973), p. 148-9.
- Proulx, Bernard (see under Boivin, Robert)
- [Punishment park] Cinema Quebec 1/6 (Dec 1971), p. 29-30.
- [Punishment park] Filmfacts 14/23 (1971), p. 628.
- [Punishment park] Films and filming 18/8 (May 1972), p. 49-50.
- [Punishment park] Hollywood reporter 218/30 (Nov 2, 1971), p. 3.
- [Punishment park] Image et son 275 (Sep 1973), p. 8-11.
- [Punishment park] Monthly film bulletin 39/457 (Feb 1972), p. 35.
- "Punishment park" Motion picture guide (edited by Jay Robert Nash and Stanley Ralph Ross) Chicago : Cinebooks, 1985. (v. 6, p. 2493)
- [Punishment park] Rolling stone 92 (Sep 30, 1971), p. 52.
- [Punishment park] Rolling stone 94 (Oct 28, 1971), p. 58.
- [Punishment park] Rolling stone 92 (Nov 11, 1971), p. 66.
- [Punishment park] Time out 104 (Feb 11, 1972), p. 46.
- [Punishment park - interview with Watkins] Time out 103 (Feb 4, 1972), p. 42-3.
- Sabatier, Jean-Marie. "Punishment park" Revue du cinema n.288-289 (Oct 1974), p. 295-6.

Stanley, R. (Stan). "Punishment park" Variety (Jun 30, 1971), p. 22.  
Thirard, Paul-Louis. "Punishment park" Positif n.155 (Jan 1974), p. 68.  
Watkins, Peter. "Punishment park and dissent in the west" Literature/film quarterly  
4/4 (autumn 1976), p. 293-302.  
Weiner, Bernard. "Punishment park" Film quarterly 25/4 (summer 1972), p. 49-52.  
Weisman, John. [Punishment park] Rolling stone 93 (Oct 14, 1971), p. 56, 58.  
Wilcox, David. "Punishment park" Sight and sound 41/2 (spring 1972), p. 109.  
Williams, Tony. "Punishment park" Vietnam war films [GB] (Entry 475)

c2005 J.K.M. Enterprises