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Sommario/riassunto	'Witchfinder General' (1968), known as 'The Conqueror Worm' in America, was directed by Michael Reeves and occupies a unique place in British cinema. Equally praised and vilified, the film fictionalizes the exploits of Matthew Hopkins, a prolific, real-life 'witch hunter', during the English Civil War. For critic Mark Kermode, the release proved to be 'the single most significant horror film produced in the United Kingdom in the 1960s', while playwright Alan Bennett called the work 'the most persistently sadistic and rotten film I've ever seen'. Steadily gaining a cult reputation, unimpeded by the director's death just months after the film's release, the film is now treated as a landmark, though problematic, accomplishment, as it exists in a number of recut, retitled, and rescored versions. This in-depth study positions the film within the history of horror and discusses its importance as a British and heritage film.