

(Download) Romantic Comedy In Hollywood: From Lubitsch to Sturges

Romantic Comedy In Hollywood: From Lubitsch to Sturges

Jim Harvey

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Jim Harvey : Romantic Comedy In Hollywood: From Lubitsch to Sturges before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Romantic Comedy In Hollywood: From Lubitsch to Sturges:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Most Eloquent, Passionate, Articulate Book on the Delights of Romantic Comedy By roverton A great book--the definitive book on romantic comedy by the best writer I've ever read on movies. Very wide passionate knowledge on the genre, plus simply a wonderful writer in general of smart, lively prose and nuanced perceptions. Harvey puts into words what you sensed but couldn't find expression for. I'd highly suggest looking into his other two books, as meticulously and smartly written as this--"Movie Love in the Fifties" and "Watching Them Be," a book that takes on the difficult, elusive task of examining "screen presence." Not for the casual movie goer, but a relentless delight for those of us who really care about movies. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great personal insight. By D.H.L. This is good, especially if you want some Cinematic insights as well as the analysis of the great romantic comedies.. Harvey knows his stuff. as there are some very good personal interviews, as well. Recommend most highly. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An absolute joy... By Stephen Simply the best book of its kind. Entirely free of of gossip and prurience, it's about the Hollywood comedies of the 1930's/40's and how they were made. A serious book about comedy, wonderfully written. Even since starting it, I have been running back and forth to the dvd player to re-view these marvellous films!

In 1934 four movies It Happened One Night, Twentieth Century, The Thin Man, and The Gay Divorcee ushered in the golden age of the Hollywood romantic ("screwball") comedy. Slangy, playful, and "powerfully, glamorously in love

with love," the films that followed were unique in their combination of swank and slapstick. Here are the directors Lubitsch (*Trouble in Paradise*), Capra (*It Happened One Night*), Hawks (*Bringing Up Baby*, *His Girl Friday*), McCarey (*The Awful Truth*), La Cava (*My Man Godfrey*, *Stage Door*), Sturges (*The Lady Eve*, *The Palm Beach Story*, *The Miracle at Morgan's Creek*) and their stars Carole Lombard, Irene Dunne, Cary Grant, Fred Astaire, Clark Gable, Barbara Stanwyck, William Powell, Myrna Loy, among others all described and analyzed in one comprehensive and delightful volume.

.com What could top the charm, the outlandishness, the wit, the loveliness of classic Hollywood romantic comedy? The triumph of James Harvey's book is its ability to convey the delights of the genre when it was at its best, during the 1930s and '40s. Though he devotes chapters to major filmmakers such as Frank Capra and Howard Hawks, and stars like Cary Grant, Claudette Colbert, Fred Astaire, and Ginger Rogers, Harvey's focus is on two of the finest directors of the period: Ernst Lubitsch and Preston Sturges. Harvey describes the joys of watching their movies as he offers many intriguing insights into their cinematic styles and comic techniques. One of the best things about this book is its author's willingness to discuss obscure, hard-to-find films. Of course, he covers popular entertainments such as Lubitsch's *Ninotchka*, Capra's *It Happened One Night*, and Sturges's *The Lady Eve*, but he also devotes equal time to little-known, fascinating works like Sturges's *The Great Moment* and Lubitsch's *Angel*. This is an invaluable companion for anyone interested in learning more about two of Hollywood's most wonderful auteurs or about romantic comedy in general. --Raphael Shargel From *Publishers Weekly*

Why is a book titled *Romantic Comedy* such a depressing read? Two reasons: with the disappearance of the nation's revival houses and the movie studios' hesitation to put all but the most popular classic films of the '30s and '40s on video, many of the marvelous movies Harvey describes here are virtually unavailable to contemporary viewers; and, sadly, they don't make them like they used to. A State University of New York teacher, Harvey is an enthusiastic student and devotee of the genre, and he has assembled a wealth of information about its leading directors and performers. But as hard as he tries in his detailed film descriptions, he can't recreate the unique spark that characterized screwball comedies and their antecedents. Of course he can't—generations of filmmakers have failed to revive the screwball spirit, whose kinetic blend of polish, pacing and personality cannot possibly be captured by print alone. Nevertheless, like too many writers on the topic of film, Harvey attempts the impossible, and loses readers in a jumble of transcribed entrances, exits and asides that, regrettably, do not play on the page. This is aggravated by Harvey's tendency to spend his analytical energies on attempts to articulate viewers' reactions to the films he discusses—trying to pin down exactly how we feel about Barbara Stanwyck in *The Lady Eve*, for example—which ultimately compels readers to put down the book and head for the video store to see for themselves. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal*

One thriving genre of older films is that of the "screwball," or perhaps more accurately, romantic comedy. Harvey focuses on the golden years of this form, 1929-48, which he defines in his preface as "a paradoxical kind of liberation, with romantic exaltation of a very down-to-earth kind." To write well about comedy, give the facts and keep the reader entertained is a tricky task. Harvey succeeds on all fronts by conveying his love for the subject, by meticulous attention to detail, and by quoting liberally from the films themselves. A treasury of good reading and information. *Movie Entertainment and Nostalgia Book Club* main selections. Arthur Bargar, Milford P.L., Ct. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.