THE SCREWBALL COMEDY FILMS

A History and Filmography, 1934-1942



Duane Byrge and Robert Milton Miller

RS Peters

The Screwball Comedy Films Duane Byrge, Robert Milton Miller, 1991 My Man Godfrey Four's a Crowd My Favorite Wife The Devil and Miss Jones for their inspired blend of slapstick humor with casual elegance and witty repartee these movies are examples of what became known as screwball comedies This study focuses on the genre film by film year by year providing the film enthusiast or serious researcher with an informed guide to the screen offerings of the era Each of the major contributors is profiled from directors such as Capra Hawks McCarey or LaCava to writers Hecht Krasna Wilder and others to the inspired lunacy of performers Grant Lombard Dunne or MacMurray The large filmography covers more than 50 films appearing chronologically and gives title studio date time director producer writers source photography cast plot description and background notes Hollywood Screwball Comedy 1934-1945 Grégoire Halbout, 2022-01-13 A 2022 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title Love at first sight whirlwind marriages break ups divorces remarriage What accounts for the enduring success of the Hollywood madcap comedies of the 1930s Directed by masters of comedy Hawks LaCava Leisen Ruggles and featuring the decade s most iconic stars Colbert Dunne Grant Hepburn these films set romantic comedy standards for decades to come Screwball comedy embarked on two challenging missions to poke fun at established social norms and to undermine stereotypical depictions of gender roles putting forward a discourse that postulated the possibility of equality between men and women Gr goire Halbout's reexamination of screwball comedy provides a comprehensive overview of this sub genre eschewing the auteurist approach and including minor works never before analyzed through the screwball lens His book explains how these screwball stories met the expectations of a booming American middle class eager for the liberalization of morals with daring plots verbal humor and slapstick techniques Building on the work of Cavell Altman and Gehring as well as international and French scholarship Halbout's investigation unfolds in three parts He first establishes a definition of Hollywood screwball comedy through a cross sectional analysis of its socio historical context and an in depth examination of the genre He then situates screwball comedy in relation to its institutional context An exclusive study of archival material explains the emergence of a screwball aesthetic meant to subvert the prohibitions of the 1934 Hollywood Production Code through a verbal and visual rhetoric of diversion and mitigation Finally Halbout explores the social function of the genre's placement of romantic intimacy at the center of the public sphere and the democratic debate confirming that screwball eccentricity upholds America's founding values freedom of speech free consent and contractual Film Appreciation through Genres Michael Patrick Gillespie, 2019-01-10 Our love of films often leads us to engagement discuss them in enthusiastic if not necessarily sophisticated conversations Many moviegoers want a better understanding so that they might better articulate their experiences This midpoint between theorizing and plot summary is not difficult to achieve Since their introduction just before the turn of the 20th century the vast majority of narrative films have followed the same structure now known as Classic Hollywood Cinema This book examines what classic means particularly in Westerns

gangster films film noir horror science fiction slapstick comedy and screwball comedy romance The reader is introduced to concepts of film theory which leads to a better and deeper appreciation of the movies A 20 page comprehensive industry glossary of film terms is included for easy reference Film - An International Bibliography Malte Hagener, Michael Töteberg, 2016-12-16 Kommentierte Bibliografie Sie gibt Wissenschaftlern Studierenden und Journalisten zuverl ssig Auskunft ber rund 6000 internationale Ver ffentlichungen zum Thema Film und Medien Die vorgestellten Rubriken reichen von Nachschlagewerk ber Filmgeschichte bis hin zu Fernsehen Video Multimedia Romantic Comedy Tamar Jeffers McDonald, 2007 Romantic Comedy offers an introduction to the analysis of one of the most popular but generally overlooked film genres The book provides an overview of Hollywood's romantic comedy conventions examining the iconography narrative patterns and ideology which inform such films Historical Dictionary of American Cinema M. Keith Booker, 2021-06-01 One of the most powerful forces in world culture American cinema has a long and complex history that stretches through more than a century This history not only includes a legacy of hundreds of important films but also the evolution of the film industry itself which is in many ways a microcosm of the history of American society Historical Dictionary of American Cinema Second Edition contains a chronology an introduction and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has more than 600 cross referenced entries covering people films companies techniques themes and subgenres that have made American cinema such a vital part of world culture **Screening Transcendence** Robert Dassanowsky, 2018-05 During the 1930s Austrian film production companies developed a process to navigate the competing demands of audiences in Nazi Germany and those found in broader Western markets In Screening Transcendence film historian Robert Dassanowsky explores how Austrian filmmakers during the Austrofascist period 1933 1938 developed two overlapping industries Aryanized films for distribution in Germany its largest market and Emigrantenfilm which employed migr and Jewish talent that appealed to international audiences Through detailed archival research in both Vienna and the United States Dassanowsky reveals what was culturally socially and politically at stake in these two simultaneous and overlapping film industries Influenced by French auteurism admired by Italian cinephiles and ardently remade by Hollywood these period Austrian films demonstrate a distinctive regional style mixed with transnational influences Combining brilliant close readings of individual films with thoroughly informed historical and cultural observations Dassanowsky presents the story of a nation and an industry mired in politics power and intrigue on the brink of Nazi occupation Historical <u>Dictionary of American Cinema</u> Keith M. Booker, 2011-03-17 One of the most powerful forces in world culture American cinema has a long and complex history that stretches through more than a century This history not only includes a legacy of hundreds of important films but also the evolution of the film industry itself which is in many ways a microcosm of the history of American society as a whole The Historical Dictionary of American Cinema provides broad coverage of the people films companies techniques themes and genres that have made American cinema such a vital part of world cinema This is done

through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and over 500 cross referenced dictionary entries This book is an excellent access point for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about the history of American Cinema Great Events from History, 2007 Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film Barry Keith Grant, 2007 This reference source covers all aspects of the cinema including film history production national cinemas genre theory and criticism and cultural contexts

Becoming Carole Lombard Olympia Kiriakou,2020-02-20 Becoming Carole Lombard Stardom Comedy and Legacy is a historical critique of the development and reception of Carole Lombard's stardom from the classical Hollywood period to present day Based on original archival research Olympia Kiriakou combines theoretically informed textual analyses of Lombard's performances and star image across different media biographies publicity materials photography and film with a critical engagement of the cultural economic social and industrial conditions that shaped her stardom Sitting at the intersection of feminist film theory star studies and comedy theory this work presents Lombard as a case study to challenge the screwball canon and existent academic discourse about female physical comedy and the alleged delicate female body In doing so it formulates a new historical approach to understanding gender femininity and identity in Hollywood comedies of the 1930s Moreover this is the first research of its kind to offer a comprehensive understanding of Lombard's stardom beyond her associations with the screwball comedy genre

American Reference Books Annual ,1992 1970 issued in 2 vols v 1 General reference social sciences history economics business v 2 Fine arts humanities science and engineering

Books in Print Supplement, 2002 Subject Guide to Children's Books in Print 1997 Bowker Editorial Staff, R R Bowker Subject Guide to Books in Print ,1997 Publishing, 1996-09 American Book Publishing Record ,1990 Οι Νέοι στις κωμωδίες του Ελληνικού Κινηματογράφου Ελίζα-Άννα Δελβερούδη, 2004 Bell. Book and Camera Heather Greene, 2018-04-20 The witch as a cultural archetype has existed in some form since the beginning of recorded history Her nature has changed through technological developments and sociocultural shifts a transformation most evident in her depictions on screen This book traces the figure of the witch through American screen history with an analysis of the entertainment industry s shifting boundaries concerning expressions of femininity Focusing on films and television series from The Wizard of Oz to The Craft the author looks at how the witch reflects alterations of gender roles religion the modern practice of witchcraft and female agency **American Cinema** Jeanine Basinger, 1994 This extraordinary book published to commemorate the centennial celebration of the birth of American film and a 10 part PBS TV series scheduled for the new year surveys the phenomenon that is Hollywood past and present With more than 200 illustrations 100 in full color and including some never before published this book celebrates the best of American films The Art of the Screwball Comedy Doris Milberg, 2013-03-26 Part One of this entertaining exploration of screwball comedies and their later offspring begins in the mid 1930s discussing the careers of popular stars such as Cary Grant and Carole Lombard and well known supporting players like Walter Connally and Ralph Bellamy also Asta the dog top animal star of the 1930s Writers and

directors are given their due Frank Capra Howard Hawks and Preston Sturges just to name a few Part Two the meat of the book takes an in depth look at the films from the genre's inception 1934 s It Happened One Night to the recent 2003 Down with Love and the stars that appear in them Clark Gable Claudette Colbert Julia Roberts Richard Gere ending with some thoughts about the future

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