



Romantic Comedy in Hollywood: From Lubitsch to Sturges

James Harvey

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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.

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