The Buffalo Film Seminars 1/26/00

Angelika 8 Theater

42nd Street 1933, Warner Brothers, 89 minutes

Director Lloyd Bacon
Choreography Busby Berkeley
Screenplay Whitney Bolton (uncredited), Rian James & James Seymour
based on a novel by Bradford Ropes
Cinematography Sol Polito
Costume Design Orry-Kelly
Original Music Harry Warren
Lyrics Al Dubin
Musical Direction Leo F. Forbstein
Producers Hal B. Wallis & Daryl F. Zanuck
Editors Thomas Pratt and Frank Ware

Warner Baxter (Julian Marsh)
Bebe Daniels Dorothy Brock
George Brent (Pat Denning)
Ruby Keeler (Peggy Sawyer)
Guy Kibbee (Abner Dillon)
Una Merkel (Lorraine Fleming)
Ginger Rogers (Ann Lowell—Anytime Annie)
Ned Sparks (Thomas Barry)
Dick Powell (Billy Lawler)
George E. Stone (Andy Lee)

Lloyd Bacon directed 103 films, beginning with The Wild Goose Chaser in 1925 and ending with The French Line in 1954. Along the way he directed Moby Dick (1930), Knute Rockne, All American (1940), The Fighting Sullivans (1944), Give My Regards to Broadway (1948), and Call Me Mister (1951).

Busby Berkeley (born William Berkeley Enos) choreographed forty films, among them all the Gold Diggers films, Girl Crazy (1932), Wizard of Oz (1939), Zigfield Girl (1941), Girl Crazy (1943), Call Me Mister (1951), and Million Dollar Mermaid (1952) in which everyone got wet.

Bebe Daniels played Ruth Wonderly in the 1931 Maltese Falcon. Warner Baxter acted in 111 films, but was probably best known for playing Dr. Samuel Alexander Mudd in Prisoner of Shark Island and Dr. Robert Ordway in the Crime Doctor series. After her divorce from Al Jolson in 1940, Ruby Keeler was out of show business until 1971, when she did appeared in Busby Berkeley's Broadway play, No, No Nanette! (She did more than 800 performances). Dick Powell played niceman roles until he appeared as Philip Marlowe in Edward Dymytrk's Murder My Sweet (1944), adapted from Raymond Chandler's Farewell, My Lovely. Ginger Rogers is Ginger Rogers.

Next week, January 26: It Happened One Night

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