The Buffalo Film Seminars

2/2/2000

Angelika 8 Theater

IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT

1934, Columbia, 105 minutes
Academy Awards for Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best writing (adaptation)

DIRECTOR Frank Capra
SCREENPLAY Robert Riskin, based on Samuel Hopkins Adams story “Night Bus”
CINEMATOGRAPHY Joseph Walker
PRODUCER Harry Cohn
EDITOR Gene Havlick

Clark Gable (Peter Warne)
Claudette Colbert (Ellie Andrews)
Walter Connolly (Alexander Andrews)
Roscoe Karns (Oscar Shapley—the traveling salesman)
James Thomas (King Wesley)
Alan Hale (Danker)
Arthur Hoyt (Zeke)
Blanche Frederici (Zeke’s wife)
Charles C. Wilson (Joe Gordon – the editor)
Ward Bond (bus driver)

FRANK CAPRA (1897, Palermo, Sicily –1991 La Quinta, California) directed 52 films, beginning with Fultah Fisher’s Boarding House (1922) and ending with Pocketful of Miracles (1961). Along the way he directed Platinum Blonde (1931), Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936), Lost Horizon (1937), You Can’t Take It With You (1938), Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939), Meet John Doe (1941), Arsenic and Old Lace (1944), It’s a Wonderful Life (1946), and State of the Union (1946). During World War II, he produced “Why We Fight,” a series of propaganda films for the Roosevelt administration. Capra won two other Best Director Oscars—for You Can’t Take it With You and Mr. Deeds Goes to Town. In 1982, he received the American Film Institute’s Life Achievement Award.

CLARK GABLE (1901-1960) is best known for Gone With the Wind (1939), but his two best acting jobs were It Happened One Night and The Misfits (1961, directed by John Huston, written by Arthur Miller, costarring Marilyn Monroe and Montgomery Clift). He was in 85 other films, among them Susan Lenox: Her Fall and Rise (1931, with Greta Garbo), Dance, Fools, Dance (1931, with Joan Crawford), A Free Soul (1931, with Norma Shearer), Red Dust (1932, with Jean Harlow), and Mutiny on the Bounty (1936, with Charles Laughton. Well, you can’t win ‘em all).

CLAUDETTE COLBERT (Paris 1903 – Barbados 1996, néé Lily Claudette Chauchoin) was a major star for more than 30 years and acted in more than 70 films as well as all the major television dramatic series of the 1950s: Studio One, Playhouse 90, General Electric Presents, Zane Gray Theater, etc. She did some of her most memorable work just before and after It Happened One Night: I Cover the Waterfront (1932), Cleopatra (1934), and Imitation of Life (1934)

NEXT WEEK, FEBRUARY 9: TRIUMPH OF THE WILL

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