

JUNE

June 23

Cleopatra

(1934) 101 mins *Romance*

Director: Cecil B. De Mille **Cast: Claudette Colbert, Warren William, Henry Wilcoxon**

The spectacle of a sexual extravaganza, (epitomised by the seduction of Mark Antony on the Royal Barge), verges on self parody. This is held in check only by De Mille's commitment to conventions of realist stage melodrama, (from his formative years in the theatre), allied with a strong pictorial sensibility.

July 14

Always Another Dawn

(1948) 78 mins *War*

Director: T.O. McCreddie **Cast: Charles Tingwell, Guy Doleman, Queenie Ashton**

During World War II the hero, following in his father's footsteps, enlists in the Navy and sees action in the Mediterranean and the Pacific. The scenes of action filmed at The Flinders Naval Depot in Sydney and on naval exercises have a strong documentary feel, though the story of romance and friendship is interwoven throughout.

AUGUST

August 04

The Shiralee

(1957) 96 mins *Drama*

Director: Leslie Norman **Cast: Peter Finch, Elizabeth Sellars, Rosemary Harris**

This is a road movie of sorts with Finch as a swagman, Macauley, seeking to escape his responsibilities but unable to shed his 'shiralee' or burden, his five year old daughter Buster. Finch's portrayal of the swagman as cultured drifter was perhaps ahead of its time but was too unsettling for fifties audiences since domestication is always a prospect.

August 11

Love Me or Leave Me

(1955) 120 mins *Drama*

Director: Charles Vidor **Cast: Doris Day, James Cagney, Cameron Mitchell**

Show-casing her dramatic capabilities, Doris Day gives an impressive performance as the 1930's torch singer Ruth Etting whose big break came when she was discovered by Chicago gangster Martin "The Gimp" Snyder. Using ruthless methods the Gimp married Ruth and provided her with material riches and renown on stage and screen. For this fulfillment of her ambitions, she paid a high personal cost, living with Martin in an atmosphere of violence and fear. With its focus on the sinister side of a showbiz relationship, the film was a departure from the traditional light-hearted musicals made by MGM.

SEPTEMBER

September 01

The Searchers

(1956) 119 mins *Western*

Director: John Ford **Cast: John Wayne, Jeffrey Hunter, Natalie Wood**

A civil war veteran's five-year search for his niece, who has been taken by Indians, ranges across the American landscape, physical, emotional and mythical in this epic Western. Gaps open between Wayne's heroic image and the pathology underlying his obsessive quest, gaps which ultimately close around the tragic mythology of the Westerner, an outsider impelled to walk away from the comforts and security of community.



June 30

Love Me Tonight

(1932) 89 mins *Musical*

Director: Rouben Mamoulian
Cast: Maurice Chevalier, Jeanette MacDonald, Charlie Ruggles

If Clair and Lubitsch were influences, Mamoulian was more successful in integrating music and sound effects, dialogue and lyrics than either of them. Nine Rodgers and Hart numbers are integral to the unfolding romance between 'the best tailor in Paris' (Chevalier) and a frosty vicomte (MacDonald) who he pursues over an unpaid bill.

July 21

And Then There Were None

(1945) 97 mins *Mystery*

Director: Rene Clair **Cast: Barry Fitzgerald, Walter Huston, Louis Hayward**

This is one of several film adaptations of Agatha Christie's best-selling mystery novel of the same title, concerning several people summoned to an island retreat by a mysterious stranger, only to meet their ends one by one. Though its subject matter is dark, the screenplay injects considerable humor into the proceedings, lightening the tone of Christie's grim book. The film could arguably be seen as a precursor to the modern slasher film.



August 18

84 Charing Cross Road

(1986) 99 mins *Drama*

Director: David Jones **Cast: Anne Bancroft, Anthony Hopkins, Judi Dench**

The film opens in 1949 as an American woman makes her first trip to London; Helene Hanff is a collector of rare books and has carried on a twenty year correspondence with an antiquarian bookseller in London. The film is touchingly sentimental, humorously observant, and obviously literary in conception. There is considerable strength in the performances of Bancroft as the headstrong bibliophile, Hopkins as the bookseller, a shy and staid family man, and Judi Dench as his wife.



September 08

Al Capone

(1959) 104 mins *Crime*

Director: Richard Wilson **Cast: Rod Steiger, Fay Spain, James Gregory**

The fifties cycle of gangster films placed greater emphasis on objectivity. While the parabolic shape of the gangster's rise and fall is still there it is deliberately de-romanticized. Capone's demise amounts to little more than a footnote. Steiger's performance is often arrestingly mannered yet is also impressive in its detail of gesture and the period has been carefully reconstructed.

September 22

Morocco

(1930) 91 mins *Romance*

Director: Joseph von Sternberg
Cast: Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Adolph Menjou

atmospheric tale of love during wartime. A German singer arrives in North Africa and is hired as the lead act in a cabaret frequented by members of the Foreign Legion. She is pursued by Le Bessier, a worldly gentleman but finds herself attracted to a handsome Legionnaire (Cooper), a man who ultimately tests the strength of her love.

JULY

July 07

You Were Meant For Me

(1948) 80 mins *Musical*

Director: Lloyd Bacon **Cast: Jeanne Crain, Dan Dailey, Oscar Levant**

This musical romance is set during the Great Depression and centers upon the rocky marriage between a flapper script girl and her band-leader spouse. Songs include 'Crazy Rhythm', 'You Were Meant for Me', 'Goodnight Sweetheart', 'Sweet Georgia Brown' and 'What Can I Say After I Say I'm Sorry'.



July 28

Midnight

(1939) 94 mins *Comedy*

Director: Mitchell Leisen **Cast: Claudette Colbert, Don Ameche, John Barrymore**

An ironic modern fairytale in the form of a screwball comedy with Colbert as a stranded American living on her wits in Parisian high life. Dialogue and decor are orchestrated into a coherent, hard-boiled fantasy.

August 25

Breaker Morant

(1979) 106 mins *War*

Director: Bruce Beresford **Cast: Edward Woodward, Jack Thompson, John Waters, Bryan Brown**

This examination of a hierarchy of loyalties and orders is based on a Boer War court martial of three colonial officers in the Bushveldt Carabineers who are sacrificed to the dictates of imperial expediency. The interweaving of courtroom drama with the re-creation of the events leading to the court martial is given a degree of moral complexity but the balance of sympathies is manipulated to favour the colonial underdogs.

September 15

Sparrows Can't Sing

(1962) 94 mins *Comedy*

Director: Joan Littlewood **Cast: James Booth, Barbara Windsor, Roy Kinnear**

This tale of a merchant seaman, who returns to his native Stepney after two years to find that his wife is living with another man, is a Cockney comedy-melodrama. Gently stylized, rapidly edited and impressionistic in approach, this was a complete reworking by Joan Littlewood of her innovative stage production.

September 29

Lovely to Look At

(1952) 102 mins *Comedy*

Director: Mervyn Leroy **Cast: Kathryn Grayson, Red Skelton, Zsa Zsa Gabor**

A comedian and Broadway show producer travels with his co-producer friends to France to arrange the sale of a Parisian dress salon he has recently inherited. They plan to use the proceeds to finance a stage show but complications ensue when they find the shop, which is run by two sisters who are co-inheritors, near bankruptcy. The Americans decide to put on a musical fashion show with gowns created by the famed designer Adrian to save the shop.

OCTOBER - NO FILMS

NOVEMBER

November 03

Cluny Brown (Nfsa)

(1946) 100mins *Comedy*

Director: Ernst Lubitsch **Cast: Jennifer Jones, Charles Boyer, Richard Haydn**

This stylish social comedy is set in a 'never-never' pre-war II London, and centres on the niece of a plumber (Jones) who takes on a plumbing job at a society home where she meets a handsome Czech refugee author (Boyer). Made late in Lubitsch's career it retains his famous 'touch' and contains a depth of casting, characterisations, social and emotional nuance that is the mark of his best work.

November 24

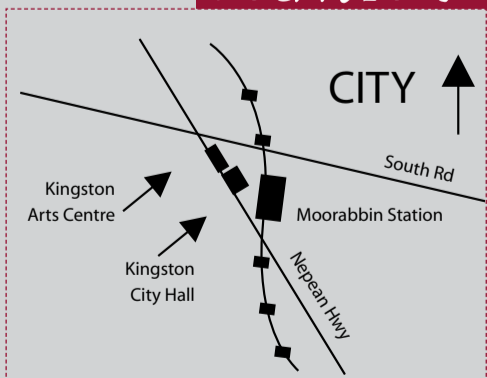
Seven Hills of Rome

(1957) 103 mins *Romance*

Director: Roy Rowland **Cast: Mario Lanza, Renato Rascel, Marisa Allasio**

Marc Revere, a popular American TV singer, is in Rome searching for his jet-setting fiancée, Carol. He moves in with his cousin Pepe, a struggling artist who always has room for another kindred soul. They befriend a beautiful young girl, Rafaella, and soon it's music and dancing all night long. Marc starts singing at local clubs and in no time he's drawing huge crowds. When Carol shows up, complications arise because Rafaella has fallen in love with Marc. Highlights include the spectacular on location photography and the stunning voice of Mario Lanza.

LOCATION



November 17

Along the Great Divide

(1951) 88 mins *Western*

Director: Raoul Walsh **Cast: Kirk Douglas, Virginia Mayo, John Ayar**

This is a moody revenge western with a guilt-ridden marshall who blames himself for his father's death, attempting to bring in a prisoner against the odds. His journey across the desert is marked by shifting allegiances between the players in a deadly game of pursuit.

November 10

Forty Thousand Horsemen

(1940) 92 mins *War*

Director: Charles Chauvel **Cast: Grant Taylor, Betty Bryant, Chips Rafferty**

This celebration of the legend of the Australian Light Horse (which was commanded by Chauvel's uncle, General Sir Harry Chauvel) in the Sinai desert campaign of World War I was appropriate for the times and it was a popular success in Australia, England and the U.S.A. The desert marches and climactic action scenes, filmed in the Cronulla sandhills, remain the high points. Chauvel also gave Chips Rafferty his first major screen role.

December 01

Ann Vickers

(1933) 75 mins *Drama*

Director: John Cromwell **Cast: Irene Dunne, Walter Huston, Bruce Cabot**

This adaptation of Sinclair Lewis's novel spans some years in the life of Ann Vickers, a social worker who becomes the superintendent of a rehabilitation centre for women prisoners. The portrayal of Vickers as a strong-minded career woman shifts to focus more conventionally on her relationships with several men including a judge who is found guilty of graft. The film is of considerable interest for the way in which potentially controversial issues were dramatised for general audiences.



December 08

The Sting

(1973) 127 mins *Crime*

Director: George Roy Hill **Cast: Paul Newman, Robert Redford, Robert Shaw**

The success of 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid' (1969) prompted the reunion of actors Newman and Redford with director Hill in this lavish, meticulously produced comedy/drama set in 1930s Chicago. 'The Sting' adopts the same 'outlaw buddy' formula of the earlier film, but this time with Newman and Redford playing two small-time Depression era con men who devise an elaborate scam to fleece a prominent racketeer. The film won seven Academy Awards in 1973 including the first Best Picture award to a woman producer, Julia Phillips.

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