

Columbia Films

Currently owned by the multinational Sony Corporation, Columbia Pictures began on Hollywood's Poverty Row, an area housing small production companies that churned out low budget westerns and B pictures. Until his death in 1959, the studio was headed by the indomitable Harry Cohn, who prided himself on producing films quickly and cheaply. In the late 1920s, Columbia began a remarkable collaboration with director Frank Capra, who would make twenty-six films for the studio, among them some of Columbia's most prestigious productions. It was Capra who directed the studio's first all-talking picture *THE DONAVAN AFFAIR* and who won the studio's first Oscar--for the comedy *IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT*.

Throughout its history, Columbia produced films that reflected the social concerns of the day, beginning with Capra's 1932 interracial love story, *THE BITTER TEA OF GENERAL YEN*. Among the other films included in the UCLA Film and Television Archive's collection are *BLIND ALLEY* (1932), *ALL THE KING'S MEN* (1949), *THE CAINE MUTINY* (1954), *PORGY AND BESS*



Cary Grant embraces Katharine Hepburn in George Cukor's *Holiday* (1938).

(1959), *ON THE WATERFRONT* (1954), *THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI* (1957), *ALL THE YOUNG MEN* (1960), *GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER* (1967), *FIVE EASY PIECES* (1970), *THE LAST DETAIL* (1974) and *THE BIG CHILL* (1983).

A number of important films have been preserved under the Archive's cooperative preservation program with Columbia Pictures.

COLLECTION PROFILE

Films

(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)

Bitter Tea of General Yen, The (1933). Director, Frank Capra. Writer, Edward Paramore.
Study Copy: VA 5045 M.

Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936). Director, Frank Capra. Writer, Robert Riskin. Study Copy: DVD 48 M.

Awful Truth (1937). Director, Leo McCarey. Writer, Vina Delmar. Study Copy: VA 8154 M.

His Girl Friday (1940). Director, Howard Hawks. Writer, Charles Lederer. Study Copy: VA 13558 M.

Lady from Shanghai (1948). Director and Writer, Orson Welles. Study Copy: VA 1082 M.

All the King's Men (1949). Director and Writer, Robert Rossen. Based on the novel by Robert Penn Warren. Study Copy: VA 1596 M.

Shockproof (1949). Director, Douglas Sirk. Writer, Helen Deutsch and Samuel Fuller.
Study Copy: VA 1186 M.

From Here to Eternity (1953). Director, Fred Zinneman. Writer, Daniel Taradash. Based on the novel by James Jones. Study Copy: VD 64 M.

Caine Mutiny, The (1954). Director, Edward Dymtryk. Writer, Stanley Roberts. Based on the novel by Herman Wouk. Study Copy: VA 5630-31 M.

On the Waterfront (1954). Director, Elia Kazan. Writer, Bud Schulberg. Study Copy: VD 573 M.

Lawrence of Arabia (1962). Director, David Lean. Writer, Robert Bolt. Study Copy: VD 32 M.

Dr. Strangelove, or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). Director, Stanley Kubrick. Writer, Kubrick, Terry Southern and Peter George. Study Copy: VD 465 M.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967). Director, Stanley Kramer. Writer, William Rose.
Study Copy: VA 4689 M.

Five Easy Pieces (1970). Director, Bob Rafelson. Writer, Adrien Joyce. Study Copy: VD 255 M.

Print Resources

(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)

Dick, Bernard F. *The Merchant Prince of Poverty Row: Harry Cohn of Columbia Pictures*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1993.

Hirschhorn, Clive. *The Columbia Story*. New York: Crown Publishers, Inc., 1989.