



Pursuits of Happiness: The Hollywood Comedy of Remarriage (Harvard Film Studies)

By Stanley Cavell

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During the '30s and '40s, Hollywood produced a genre of madcap comedies that emphasized reuniting the central couple after divorce or separation. And the female protagonists were strong, independent, and sophisticated. Here, Stanley Cavell examines seven of those classic movies for their cinematic techniques, and for such varied themes as feminism, liberty and interdependence. Included are *Adam's Rib*, *Bringing Up Baby*, and *The Philadelphia Story*.

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Editorial Review

Review

No book about the art of Hollywood I have ever read can make its readers stop and think more effectively than this one. (S. S. Prawer *Times Literary Supplement*)

This is a voice like no other in philosophy, today or ever. (Arthur C. Danto *October*)

The great achievement of...*Pursuits of Happiness* is that it finally provides a solid framework for the serious discussion of the great dialogue comedies of the thirties and forties, perhaps the most revived and loved movies of Hollywood's golden period. (Al LaValley *American Film*)

This just must be, in its close readings and its stunning associations, one of the most compelling accounts of its kind. The fact is, it just *is* its kind. (Geoffrey Hawthorn *London Review of Books*)

Stanley Cavell's book succeeds brilliantly...The individual 'readings' of the films and the general conceptual plan in which they are embedded are both so rich and rewarding that...'brilliant'...seems an understatement. (Gerald Mast *Journal of Aesthetic Education*)

From the Back Cover

Each of the seven chapters that follow contains an account of my experience of a film made in Hollywood between 1934 and 1949.

About the Author

Stanley Cavell is Walter M. Cabot Professor of Aesthetics and the General Theory of Value, Emeritus, at Harvard University.

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