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The Films of Myrna Loy

Lawrence J. Quirk



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In the summer of 1980, Myrna Loy celebrated the diamond anniversary of her birth. The same year marked her fifty-fifth year as a film actress. In 1925 she appeared in the first of her hundred and twenty-three films (to the date of the book), and her appearance as Alan King's secretary in 1980's Just Tell Me What You Want shows not the slightest diminuition of her performing talent, her charisma or her audience appeal. No other actress in the annals of the screen has been featured in motion pictures for six decades. In this Miss Loy is truly unique. This book, meticulously researched, is the complete record of her life and career. Every film in which she appeared is documented with casts, credits, reviews and production notes. The actors who appeared opposite Miss Loy are virtually a pantheon of Hollywood's leading players and include Clark Gable, William Powell, Spencer Tracy, Leslie Howard, Robert Taylor and John Barrymore. From an earlier period are Monte Blue, Conrad Nagel, Ramon Navarro, Ronald Colman and Lowell Sherman. Hundreds of photographs, many extremely rare, illustrate the book. The photographs depict Miss Loy in all her many screen personas: the vamp, the inscrutable Oriental lady, the romantic interest of various leading men, the calculating murderer, the perfect wife and the "other woman," to name only a few. Myrna Loy has always kept a low profile in her private life. The biographical portrait which emerges is that of a woman who has dedicated herself not only to her acting craft but to charities and causes advancing public interest in the arts. In February 1980, the National Board of Review awarded Myrna Loy the first David Wark Griffith Award for her spectacular advancement of motion pictures, both silent and sound.

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