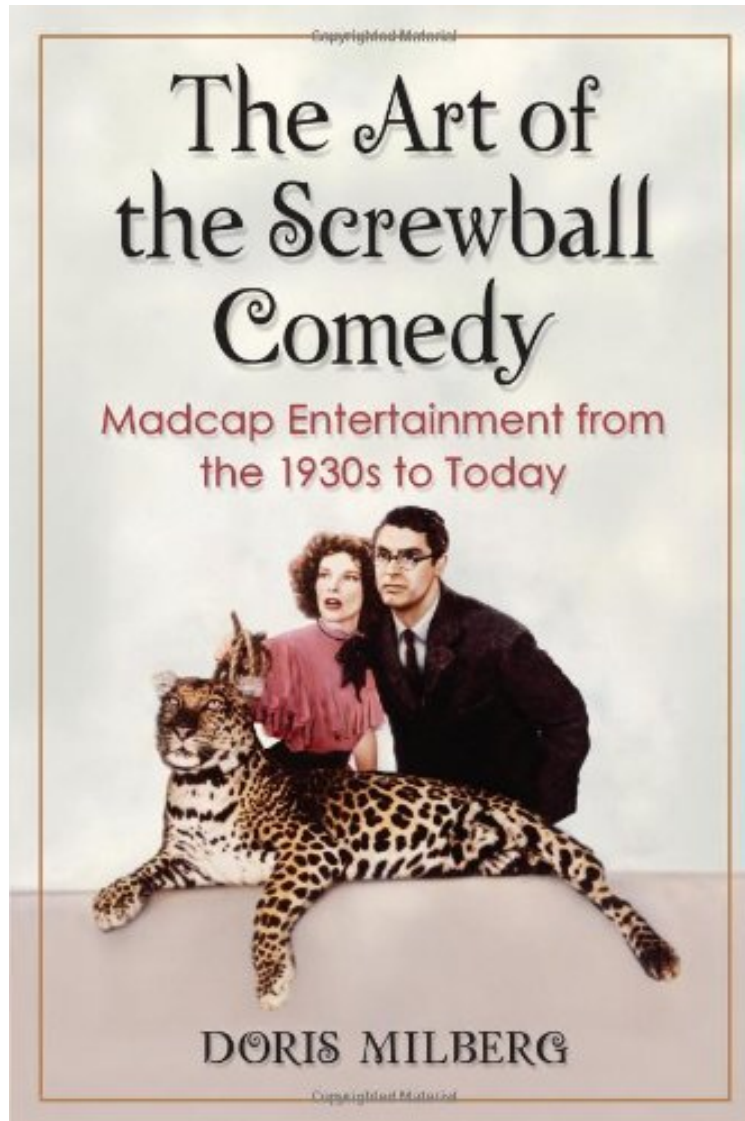


The Art of the Screwball Comedy: Madcap Entertainment from the 1930s to Today

Doris Milberg

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Doris Milberg : The Art of the Screwball Comedy: Madcap Entertainment from the 1930s to Today before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Art of the Screwball Comedy: Madcap Entertainment from the 1930s to Today:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating in many ways. Not just for the film buff. By D. GravesFirst, a confession: as a one-time movie fanatic (I have a life now, and watch much less), my favorite films of

all time were screwball comedies: *Bringing Up Baby*, *Arsenic and Old Lace*, etcetera. So, I bring an enthusiasm for the subject that perhaps the casual reader may not have. Not to worry, this book is much, much more than an ode to Frank Capra and Howard Hawks. It has a depth and breadth far beyond the films we know so well. In addition to the fascinating story of WHY screwball comedies were made (as an endroute around increasing censorship, creating 'sex comedies without the sex'), and a thorough analysis of the films, stars, directors and movie studios, we get a wealth of very interesting 'back story' information on such varied subjects as remakes, scandals (including several murders), and the effects of World War II on the genre. Finally, there is an in-depth exploration of more modern films carrying on the screwball tradition and of sub-genres within that tradition. Includes a bibliography and an excellent index. Perhaps a bit pricey for a paperback but, for the film buff, an excellent book for the cost of one DVD. This is a larger, 6" x 9" trade softcover.

Part One of this entertaining exploration of screwball comedies and their later offspring begins in the mid-1930s discussing the careers of popular stars such as Cary Grant and Carole Lombard and well-known supporting players like Walter Connolly and Ralph Bellamy (also Asta the dog, top animal star of the 1930s!). Writers and directors are given their due: Frank Capra, Howard Hawks and Preston Sturges, just to name a few. Part Two, the meat of the book, takes an in depth look at the films, from the genre's inception (1934's *It Happened One Night*) to the recent 2003 *Down with Love*, and the stars that appear in them--Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert, Julia Roberts, Richard Gere--ending with some thoughts about the future.

About the Author Doris Milberg is a former teacher who has written three previous books and more than 100 articles about cinema history.