

# Screwball Comedy

Hailing from the tradition of Shakespeare's battle-of-the-sexes comedies, like *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Taming of the Shrew*, **Screwball Comedy** developed as a distinctive genre in 1930s and 40s Hollywood. It brought to the fore an array of strong and exciting female characters who, despite their eventual 'taming' as per the genre convention, have lingered in the cultural imagination at their most vibrant and dominant.

THIS SEASON SHOWCASES SOME OF THE  
BEST EXAMPLES OF SCREWBALL COMEDY

## Design For Living

Sunday, 13 November 2016 at 7.00pm

Ernst Lubitsch | USA 1933 | 91 min

A risqué relationship story and a witty take on creative pursuits, the film concerns a commercial artist (Miriam Hopkins) unable—or unwilling—to choose between the painter (Gary Cooper) and the equally dashing playwright (Fredrich March) she meets on a train en route to Paris. *Design for Living* is film director Lubitsch at his sexiest, an entertainment at once debonair and racy, featuring three stars at the height of their allure.

"A daring movie that satirizes sexual mores and heaps irony upon irony." (*Scene Stealers.com*)

## My Man Godfrey

Sunday, 20 November 2016 at 7.00pm

Gregory La Cava | USA 1936 | 94 min

Fifth Avenue socialite Irene Bullock (Carole Lombard) needs a "forgotten man" to win a scavenger hunt, and no one is more forgotten than Godfrey Park (William Powell), who resides in a dump by the East River. Irene hires Godfrey as a servant for her riotously unhinged family, to the chagrin of her spoiled sister, Cornelia (Gail Patrick), who tries her best to get Godfrey fired. As Irene falls for her new butler, Godfrey turns the tables and teaches the frivolous Bullocks a lesson or two.

"*My Man Godfrey*, one of the treasures of 1930s screwball comedy, doesn't merely use Lombard and Powell, it loves them... God, but this film is beautiful." (Roger Ebert)



Design For Living



My Man Godfrey

## Nothing Sacred

Sunday, 27 November 2016 at 7.00pm  
William Wellman | USA 1937 | 77 min

Certain she was dying from radium poisoning, Hazel Flagg (Carole Lombard) is delighted to learn from her doctor that it was a false alarm. But when New York City reporter Wally Cook (Fredric March) shows up looking for a story about a young girl braving terminal illness, Hazel decides that she's sick again. Wally whisks her off to Manhattan, where her supposed courage wins her many admirers. The toast of the town, she falls in love with Wally and dreads being discovered.

*"It's one of the great screwball comedies of the '30s, one of Carole Lombard's best roles...shot in beautiful, understated Technicolor, a real rarity in its time."* (Blu-Ray.com)

## Holiday

Sunday, 4 December 2016 at 7.00pm  
George Cukor | USA 1938 | 95 min

"Marvellous 'sophisticated comedy' about a prototype dropout (Cary Grant in one of his best performances) who takes a rich upper class family by storm: arriving engaged to the conventionally snobbish younger daughter, stirring up latent doubts and resentments through his carefree disregard for material proprieties and properties, he ends up by showing the yearningly dissatisfied elder sister (Katharine Hepburn) the way to a declaration of independence." (*Time Out*)

*"Katharine Hepburn is in her best form...her acting is delightful and shaded with fine feeling and understanding throughout."* (*Variety*)

## The Doctor Takes A Wife

Sunday, 11 December 2016 at 7:00pm  
Alexander Hall | USA 1940 | 88 min

June Cameron (Loretta Young) is the successful author of the book "Spinsters Aren't Spinach", about how women don't need men to feel fulfilled. She makes the mistake of hitching a ride with Dr. Timothy Sterling (Ray Milland) in a car festooned with a "Just Married" sign. When reporters assume she's married, it's the end of her book about the joys of the single life, but also the start of a new career as the voice of the married woman. When Sterling finds this perception of marriage to be a career boost, he's ready to go along with the charade. Trouble is, Sterling's fiancée isn't so thrilled with his bogus marriage.

Nothing Sacred

Holiday

The Doctor Takes A Wife