WINTER 2009 10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

BYU Motion Picture Archive Film Series
H a r o l d B. L e e L i b r a r y A u d i t o r i u m

B R A V O F O R B E T T E !

Starring Bette Davis, Charles Boyer, Jeffrey Lynn, Barbara O’Neil, Harry Davenport. Rachel Field’s best-seller about a real-life governess, Henriette Deluy Desportes, implicated in the death of the wife of 19th century French diplomat Duc de Praslin, with whom she had been having an affair, was a sensation when it came out in 1938. The otherwise flamboyant Davis is more restrained in this role and pulls it off magnificently. "The picture requires a caliber of understatement in everything she said and did," wrote Davis, “was a challenge to me as an actress. Henriette was an extremely difficult part for me to play.” This lavish production, one of the studio’s biggest of the year, was directed by top Warner Bros. director Anatole Litvak (Sorry Wrong Number, The Snake Pit, Anastasia). Utah-born Casey Robinson, a mainstay screenwriter at Warner Bros., who excelled at literary adaptations, carefully structured the drama and tension from the long Field novel. Studio composer Max Steiner finished off this lavish historical drama with a superbly atmospheric music score. The interesting backstory will be told prior to the screening. Warner Bros., 1940, 143 mins. Director: Anatole Litvak.

WESTERN UNION

Filmed in Utah

Starring Robert Young, Randolph Scott, Dean Jagger, Virginia Gilmore, John Carradine. Prolific author Zane Grey’s last published novel was brought to the screen in dazzling Technicolor showing off the changing hues of southwestern Utah’s red rock country of Paria in Kane County. The tale involves Western Union’s chief engineer Edward Creighton (Jagger), who unknowingly hires an outlaw bank robber (Scott) as scout for the crew that is stringing the telegraph lines from Omaha to Salt Lake City in 1861. Indian attacks and the tenderfoot son of the company’s major stockholder complicate matters considerably. Scott’s persona as a lonely and tarnished hero begins in this film. Hired by German emigre Fritz Lang, whose forte was crime drama, Western Union was a major hit of the season. Lang noted that Western Union “is mounted with expansiveness as a super-westerns of upper-budget proportions, and displays some of the most eyeful exterior panoramas in Technicolor that have ever been photographed.” 20th Century-Fox, 1941. 95 mins. Technicolor. Director: Fritz Lang.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Directed and Produced by Howard Hawks

“HATARI!”

Starring John Wayne, Elsa Martinelli, Hardy Kruger, Gerard Blain, Red Buttons, Bruce Cabot. In Swahili, the “is mounted with expansiveness as a super-westerns of upper-budget proportions, and displays some of the most eyeful exterior panoramas in Technicolor that have ever been photographed.” 20th Century-Fox, 1941. 95 mins. Technicolor. Director: Fritz Lang.

“SONS OF THE DESERT”

Filmed in Utah

Starring Stan Laurel & Oliver Hardy, Mae Busch, Dorothy Christie, Charley Chase. Laurel and Hardy promise fraternal lodge brethren to attend their annual convention in Chicago, except that no one had asked Mrs. Hardy, who wants to vacation in the mountains. The boys concur a nose to go to Hawaii for Ollie’s “health,” only to have it unravel in the customarily hilarious Laurel & Hardy manner. Superb timing, fully realized characterizations, and excellent direction by veteran comedy expert William Seiter make Sons of the Desert one of the great comedies of the 1930s. An international fan club for Laurel & Hardy, created in the mid-1960s and still in existence, takes its name from this film. Hal Roach/Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, 1936, 93 mins. Director: William A. Seiter.

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
An Evening With Mr. Laurel and Hardy

DOUBLE FEATURE

Starring Gary Cooper, Walter Brennan, Joan Leslie, Margaret Wycherly. This movie, about World War I soldier Aron York, the backwoods Tennessee-born pacifist who became a war hero, gave the U.S. Army recruiting an unintended boost in the months prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It also was involved in a Senate investigation into Hollywood’s anti-war sentiment in pre-war isolationist America. Gary Cooper was York’s choice from the very beginning, and this was a condition for Warner Bros. bringing his life to the screen. Cooper’s performance in the title role won him an Academy Award, and the film was nominated in nine additional categories including Best Picture, Direction, and Music (Max Steiner). Material from the Howard Hawks Papers in Special Collections will be shown prior to the screening, along with memorabilia from the Max Steiner papers of the producer, director, or an actor connected with the film. These are open to the public — and welcome in a theatrical venue, the way they were meant to be seen, on the big screen in our 213-seat Auditorium on the First Floor of the Lee Library. Some items are expected to include score sections, portions, and special introductions by James D’Arc. Films in this series meet Access Program Student Work requirements. For other information, contact Louise J. Ellis, Co-curatorial Director, BYU Motion Picture Archive, at 435-364-6777.

Free Admission
7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30)