

FRIDAY - 1ST OCTOBER

"FOOLISH WIVES"

U.S.A. 1921

A silent film made by Erich von Stroheim, in which he stars with Maude George and Mae Busch.

Since Stroheim is universally acknowledged as one of the greatest directors of the silent era, it is unfortunate that "Foolish Wives" is the only one of his films available in Australia. In the space of ten years, he made eight films, of which four are considered brilliant and one, "Greed" is reputedly among the three or four finest achievements of the American cinema.

"Foolish Wives", the director's third film and the last in a trilogy dealing with infidelity, was the first great work of Stroheim's maturity. The novelettish plot concerns international adventurers operating on the Cote D'azure, but as always with Stroheim, what matters is his analysis of character and of a strangely artificial society. A brilliant, comic, brutal film, it is a richly detailed vision of the squalors and splendours of post-war international society.

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FRIDAY - 15th OCTOBER

"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"

U.S.A. 1935

First Version

Dir: Frank Lloyd. With: Charles Laughton, Clark Gable.  
Winner of 1935 Best Film of Year Oscar.

This film is commendable mainly for the superb acting of Laughton and Gable and the authentic and faithful to history stream of events which followed. Seaworthy replicas of H.M.S. Bounty and Pandora added to the reality of the film and it is generally accepted that this version is far superior to the later one. No expense was spared during the making and considering it was depression years, this is amazing but certainly paid off.

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SUNDAY - 17th OCTOBER

"MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY"

U.S.A. 1962

2nd Version

Dir: Lewis Milestone. With: Trevor Howard, Marlon Brando

This second version is interesting to compare in that it is of course technically and visually better than the earlier one and even though the acting of Trevor Howard is comparable with Charles Laughton, Brando falls far short of Gable's more natural and earthy approach as Christian.

The film remake was intended to revive MGM's flagging fortunes, but was a box office flop. It was originally to be made by Carol Reed who left after a dispute and Lewis Milestone (All Quiet on Western Front) took over. Disaster plagued the film - a typhoon wrecked the "Bounty" and Brando became temperamental and the film was consequently well over schedule. Trevor Howard remarked recently whilst out here to make Burstall's "Mrs. Eliza Braser" that it was a pleasure to be out in the Pacific again - without Brando!

The film is helped by spectacular colour and cinemascope.

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