

The Museum of Modern Art

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THE GLORIOUS CAREER OF COMEDIENNE JUDY HOLLIDAY IS CELEBRATED IN A COMPLETE NINE-FILM RETROSPECTIVE

Series Premieres New Prints of *Born Yesterday* and *The Marrying Kind*
Restored by The Department of Film and Video and Sony Pictures

Born Yesterday: The Films of Judy Holliday
December 27, 1996–January 4, 1997
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1

Special Premiere Screening of the Restored Print of *Born Yesterday*
Introduced in Person by Betty Comden
on Monday, December 9, 1996, at 6:00 p.m.

Judy Holliday approached screen acting with extraordinary intelligence and intuition, debuting in the World War II film *Winged Victory* (1944) and giving outstanding comic performances in eight more films from 1949 to 1960, when her career was cut short by illness. Beginning December 27, 1996, The Museum of Modern Art presents *Born Yesterday: The Films of Judy Holliday*, a complete retrospective of Holliday's short but exhilarating career.

Holliday's experience working with director George Cukor on *Winged Victory* led to a collaboration with Cukor, Garson Kanin, and Kanin's wife Ruth Gordon, resulting in *Adam's Rib* (1949), *Born Yesterday* (1950), *The Marrying Kind* (1952), and *It Should Happen To You* (1952). She went on to make *Phffft* (1954), *The Solid Gold Cadillac* (1956), *Full of Life* (1956), and, for director Vincente Minnelli, *Bells Are Ringing* (1960).

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The Department of Film and Video and Sony Pictures Entertainment are restoring the six films that Holliday made at Columbia Pictures from 1950 to 1956. This series premieres the first two restorations, *Born Yesterday* and *The Marrying Kind*.

A special premiere screening of the newly restored print of *Born Yesterday* will be held in advance of the series, on Monday, December 9, 1996. It will be introduced by Holliday's close friend and collaborator Betty Comden.

Holliday began and ended her career with Betty Comden and Adolph Green, her partners in The Revuers, the cabaret act that performed in three films in 1944; Comden and Green scripted the musical comedy *Bells Are Ringing* for Holliday on stage in 1956, and it was adapted for her last screen performance, in 1960.

The series also features a new print from the Library of Congress of Holliday's film debut, *Winged Victory*, a World War II propaganda film adapted from the play by Moss Hart, which features a number of future film stars in early roles. It will be shown in a program that includes short excerpts from the Carmen Miranda musicals in which Holliday had her first cameos: *Greenwich Village* (1944), which features The Revuers in two party scenes, and *Something for the Boys* (1944), in which Holliday appears briefly as a defense-plant welder.

Born Yesterday: The Films of Judy Holliday was organized by Mary Lea Bandy, Chief Curator, Department of Film and Video. The program is made possible with support from United Airlines. Special thanks to Sony Pictures Entertainment, Turner Entertainment Co., Twentieth Century-Fox, and the Library of Congress.

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For photographs, or for more information, please call Graham Leggat, Film and Video Press Representative, at 212/708-9752.

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