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Author(s)	Andrew Sarris Andrew Sarris
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Alfred Hitchcock's **Jamaica Inn** (1939), from a screenplay by Sidney Gilliat and Joan Harrison, based on the Daphne du Maurier novel as adapted by Alma Reville, with Charles Laughton, Maureen O'Hara, Leslie Banks, and Robert Newton, was a transitional film between Hitchcock's British and American periods. The curiously unsuspenseful plot features the young O'Hara intruding into a den of pirates and cutthroats in which Laughton as a lascivious local magistrate works a shipwrecking operation on the side. The eccentrically erotic relationship between Laughton and O'Hara, he sadistic, she submissive, gives the movie odd overtones. Hitchcock had a great deal of trouble with Laughton's time-consuming theatrical conceits, but Laughton is memorable nonetheless as the demented aristocrat living and loving beyond his means. Hence, the movie is affective without being effective, as the raging unconscious of its players is unchecked by any appreciable stylistic or thematic control. (Co-feature: Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt*)
Theatre 80 St. Mark's: 3, 6:40, 10:20.