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RICH AND STRANGE

Britain 1932. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock for British International Pictures. Script by Alma Reville and Val Valentine, from a story by Dale Collins. Photographed by Jack Cox. With Henry Kendall and Joan Barry. A young middle-class couple, settling comfortably into suburban anonymity, come into some money and decide to spend it on a world cruise. The trip turns out catastrophically; they drift apart, become romantically entangled elsewhere, but are finally reunited by a shipwreck in the Far East. Despite its many outrageous and unpredictable situations, this film has many of the hallmarks of Hitchcock's usual preoccupations; it is regarded by some critics as the key film of the director's career, and can certainly be seen to foreshadow the themes of his **Thirty-Nine Steps** and **North by Northwest**. There are moments of lively expressionism in the opening London rush-hour scenes and a tourist-Paris sequence, some characteristically sardonic humour in the use of titles, and a touch of macabre in the fate of the ship's cat.

16 Sd 83 mins Hire charge: £10.25