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"Not to think, only to live, only to feel." The essence of Greta Garbo's two incarnations of Tolstoy's heroine is her ability to project this quality as both character and actress. The silent and sound versions strike such different stresses in the same character that each complements the other as variations interpreted by master soloist Garbo.

Both films are peculiarly solitary affairs. Garbo doesn't leave much of the audience's or the filmmakers' attentions unabsorbed, and the side characters, while they invariably look better when seen through the prism of her performance, tend to be slighted.

Love concentrates on the title subject successfully, largely because John Gilbert was the only leading man who could convey a mutual physical attraction with Garbo. *Anna Karenina* makes sketchy allusions to social hypocrisy and decadence, but it is more remarkable for what is probably the most self-consciously mythic incarnation of the Garbo personality. This later Garbo has an omniscient irony about her love, a clear-eyed clairvoyance about her fate, which is unmistakable right from the early shot of her face enshrouded by the steam of a locomotive. Garbo was barely 22 in *Love*, still ripe with that gawky languor that made her Anna a blissful victim of her passions. At 30, Garbo mellowed from audacious disdain to a bemused grandeur, her features honed into expressive instruments of irony: the eyes softer, the mouth harder.

Neither version progresses beyond Garbo's own luxuriant misery, both offer the special profundity of Garbo herself, ecstatic in her exquisite apprehension of love and loss.

—Myron Meisel

USA

Love

1927. 1.33 format. Approximately 85 min.
A silent film with live organ accompaniment.

Producer-Director Edmund Goulding *Adaptation* Lorna Moon *Titles* Marian Ainslee Ruth Cummings *Cinematographer* William Daniels *Editor* Hugh Wynn *Principal Cast* Greta Garbo John Gilbert George Fawcett *Production Company* Print Source Metro-Goldwyn Mayer

USA

Anna Karenina

1935. 1.33 format. 95 min.

Producer David O. Selznick *Director* Clarence Brown *Screenwriters* Clemence Dane Salka Viertel S N Behrman *Cinematographer* William Daniels *Editor* Robert J. Kern *Music* Herbert Stothart *Principal Cast* Greta Garbo Fredric March Maureen O'Sullivan May Robson *Production Company* Print Source Metro-Goldwyn Mayer

