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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A TRIBUTE TO PRESTON STURGES AT THE CASTRO THEATRE

A 12-film retrospective honoring PRESTON STURGES, probably the least-known among the group of America's great comedy directors of Hollywood's Golden Age, opens a 12-day engagement on Friday, May 20, at the CASTRO Theatre, Castro at Market, San Francisco.

The Castro's rediscovery extravagantly reflects Sturges' unique, irreverent comic style that combined elements of '30's sophisticated romantic comedy and screwball comedy with silent slapstick, and satirized such American middleclass ideals as politics, ambition, success, wealth, fertility rites, hero and mother worship, and courtship rituals.

Opening the retrospective are two of Sturges' most satisfying comedies about the upper-crust as imagined by moviemakers, THE PALM BEACH STORY (1942), with Claudette Colbert, Joel McCrea, Rudy Vallee, and Mary Astor; and THE LADY EVE (1941), starring Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda, and Charles Coburn (May 20-21).

Other highlights of the tribute include two prime examples of Sturges' many brilliant scripts written in the '30s, REMEMBER THE NIGHT (1940) and EASY LIVING (1937), both landmarks of screwball comedy (May 24); THE GREAT MCGINTY (1940), the first of Sturges' great comedies as writer-director, with Brian Donlevy and Akim Tamiroff, (May 22-23); and SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS (1941), considered by Vincent Canby to be "...among the wittiest, most pungent, most sophisticated, most falling-down-funny comedies ever made in America." (May 27-28).

A listing of the retrospective is enclosed.

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