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**An Affair to Remember.** Director Leo McCarey



made his reputation in the thirties, that uniquely unpretentious period of the American cinema, with such great films as *Ruggles of Red Gap*, *The Awful Truth*, *Make Way for Tomorrow*, and *Love Affair*. Back then, when no one seemed to care all that much if shots matched, it was more obvious that McCarey would sacrifice any rule of cinema out of devotion to the manners and mannerisms of his characters. In 1957, when McCarey remade *Love Affair* as *An Affair to Remember*, cinema's rules of craft had long since been institutionalized, and McCarey's personality is driven under the film's surface. But the results are hardly less appealing, and beneath a smooth exterior one detects something oddly tremulous and true about the ill-fated passion of shipboard lovers Cary Grant and Deborah Kerr. *An Affair to Remember*, which follows the underrated gems *Good Sam* and *My Son John* in McCarey's oeuvre, is the last entirely successful film of this still-neglected director. (DS) (New Beverly, Fri 7:30; Sat 3, 7:30)

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