

## Document Citation

Title	<b>The marriage circle</b>
Author(s)	Chase Weaver
Source	<i>Kit Parker Films</i>
Date	1979
Type	distributor materials
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	The marriage circle, Lubitsch, Ernst, 1924

# THE MARRIAGE CIRCLE

(U.S., 1923)

silent

\$30.00

129 minutes at silent speed of 16 fps  
(86 minutes if projected at sound speed)

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch, assisted by James Flood and Henry Blanke - Screenplay by Paul Bern, adapted from the play "Only a Dream," by Lothar Schmidt - Cinematography by Charles van Fenger - A First National Picture. Players: Florence Vidor, Monte Blue, Adolph Menjou, Marie Prevost, Creighton Hale, Dale Fuller and Esther Ralston.

Set in pre-World War I Vienna, Ernst Lubitsch, in his second Hollywood film, adroitly and expansively illustrates Dumas' remark, "... the chains of matrimony are so long that it takes two to carry them, sometimes three ..."

American audiences of the 1920's did so enjoy viewing the carryings-on of the "risqué" Europeans, who were doing in the open what Americans were forced to do (badly) behind the carriage house! *The Marriage Circle* presents a *Ménage à cinq* put into gear by the unhappily married Marie Prevost (to Adolph Menjou). She covets the naively, happily married (and other folklore) Monte Blue who tries to overlook her intentions, while also missing the ardent affection of his colleague (Creighton Hale) for his wife (Florence Vidor).

Seductive arrangements loom in waiting rooms, living rooms, and the more obvious bed-rooms, but thanks to Lubitsch's well timed mis-timings, nobody is unforgivably "compromised" - as the old word euphemized. The first of Lubitsch's witty satires on sex and morals and lack of the latter. CW

Let Puffin Chase Warner  
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