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THE FAIRBANKS WEEKEND FILM SERIES

ALL MY SONS (1948)

With Edward G. Robinson, Burt Lancaster, Mady Christians, Howard Duff, Louisa Norton, Frank Conroy, Arlene Francis, Lloyd Gough, Elisabeth Fraser and Henry Morgan.

Screenplay by Chester Erskine, adapted from the play by Arthur Miller. Photographed by Russell Metty. Art direction by Bernard Herzbrun and Hilyard Brown. Edited by Ralph Dawson. Sound by Leslie Carly and Corson Jowett. Music by Leith Stevens, orchestrated by David Tamkin. Assistant director, Frank Shaw. Produced by Chester Erskine for Universal-International.

Directed by Irving Reis

The play All My Sons occupies an important place in the career of the dramatist Arthur Miller. Although it was not his first major work for the stage (The Man Who Had All The Luck had appeared in 1944) it was his first success, his first play to be filmed, and brought him to the attention of Elia Kazan.

All My Sons was a timely play, appearing in 1947 with a theme concerning wartime guilt on the home front. It is uncommonly effective on the stage, and the film adaptation sticks almost too faithfully to the original drama under the undistinguished direction of Irving Reis.

The major interest of the film centers on the performances of the leading actors. Edward G. Robinson is particularly effective as the father. "This most talented actor, who is celebrating his fortieth anniversary in films this year, was born in Bucharest in 1893. He has appeared in over seventy films under a variety of great directors, and although he has been typed as a heavy mainly due to the accident of having made his fame with LITTLE CAESAR, his range is much wider.

Burt Lancaster was born in New York in 1913 and entered films with Robert Siodmak's THE KILLERS in 1946. In recent years he has extended his activities to production and has his own company. His most recent appearance was as the Prince in THE LEOPARD.

These two fine actors carry Miller's tragedy along with controlled power, filling in with genuine acting ability the weakness of the direction. The photography of Russell Metty (who later teamed up on another Miller project, THE MISFITS) is excellent throughout.

Irving Reis was a peculiar choice for the direction of the film. Born in New York in 1906, he came into the films after he had founded and directed the Columbia Workshop for CBS from 1934-1937. He then worked as a writer on a number of minor films, the best known being the Falcon series. His directorial career began after the war, and his output has not been distinguished. DANCING IN THE DARK (1949) is probably his best known film.

David Stewart Hull