

Document Citation

Title	If I had a million
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IF I HAD A MILLION (Paramount, 1932) Directors: Ernst Lubitsch, Norman Taurog, Stephen Roberts, James Cruze, Norman McLeod; William Seiter, Bruce Humberstone; Writers: Robert D. Andrews (basic story) and Claude Binyon, Whitney Bolton, Malcolm Stuart Boylan, John Bright, Sidney Buchman, Lester Cole, Isabel Dawn, Boyce DeGaw, Walter De Leon, Oliver H.P. Garrett, Harvey Gates, Grover Jones, Ernst Lubitsch, Lawton Mackall, Joseph L. Mankiewicz, William Slavens McNutt, Seton I. Miller, Tiffany Thayer. Lothar Mendes also worked as a director on one segment, but received no screen credit. Producer: Louis D. Lighton. 88 mins., NY premiere, Rivoli Theatre. (No cameramen credited either in publicity or on the print)

Oddly enough we have never run this film, which also seems to have disappeared from any kind of theatrical exhibition, so a revival is long overdue. For its late 40's theatrical reissue, and for most of its tv exhibition, the Gene Raymond story and the Wynne Gibson episode were deleted; both are in our print. A far more (and more satisfying) ~~economic~~ answer to MGM's "Grand Hotel", "If I Had a Million" - a good framing story with variable enclosed stories, most of them good - is surprisingly consistent in mood, pace and style considering the incredible array of talent involved. Only one story - the Gary Cooper segment, directed by Normand McLeod - is decidedly weak, while the James Cruze/May Robson episode doesn't seem to work as well as it should. But Cruze makes amends with the brief, almost anecdotal Wynne Gibson episode, while the highlights are undoubtedly the Lubitsch/Laughton vignette, the brilliant William Seiter/Ruggles sequence, and of course the W.C. Fields episode which, ~~although~~ being predictable and absolutely sure-fire, works despite its lack of surprise. And all of this in a slick, streamlined 8 reels. The cast, somehow omitted above, and rather important in an omnibus film of this type, follows:

Richard Bennett (John Glidden); Gary Cooper (Gallagher); George Raft (Eddie Jackson); Wynne Gibson (Violet); Charles Laughton (The Clerk); Jack Oakie (Mulligan); Frances Dee (Mary Wallace); Charlie Ruggles (Henry Peabody); Alison Skipworth (Emily); W.C. Fields (Rollo); Mary Boland (Mrs Peabody); Roscoe Karns (O'Brien); May Robson (Mrs Walker); Gene Raymond (John Wallace); Lucien Littlefield (Zeb); Grant Mitchell (Prison padre); Joyce Compton (Marie); Cecil Cunningham (Agnes); Irving Bacon (salesman); Blanche Frederici (Head Nurse); Dewey Robinson (Cook); Gail Patrick (Secretary); Willard Robertson, Fred Kelsey (doctors); Kent Taylor (bank clerk); Jack Pennick (sailor); Berton Churchill (warden); James Burtis (gaoler)

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Program Ends app. 10.43. Short discussion period follows.