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'Love Crazy,' Slapstick Riot With Bill Powell, Myrna Loy

Ribs Mothers-in-Law at the Capitol And Runs Gamut of Gay Nonsense

By HERBERT COHN

"Love Crazy," at the Capitol Theater, is the wackiest mother-in-law joke ever. If there were an Association for the Prevention of Slandering Mothers-in-law, it would be up in arms. There would be picket lines and petitions. There would be pressure on Congress and court injunctions. Poor mother-in-law is ripped up the back and kicked in the shins. "Love Crazy" unquestionably is unfair to mothers-in-law. But it's the funniest chunk of unfairness in months. Normally an unswerving champion of fairness, we're for "Love Crazy" 100 percent.

Bill Powell and Myrna Loy, two prime funsters, are the stars at the Capitol. But they aren't really funny until Myrna's mother, Florence Bates, comes along to be

'LOVE CRAZY'

A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture, produced by Pandro S. Berman and directed by Jack Conway from a screen play by William Ludwig, Charles Lederer and David Hertz. Presented at the Capitol Theater.

THE CAST

Steve Ireland	William Powell
Susan Ireland	Myrna Loy
Isobel Grayson	Gail Patrick
Ward Willoughby	Jack Carson
Miss Cooper	Florence Bates
George Renny	Sidney Blackmer
Dr. Wuthering	Sig Rumann
Dr. Klugie	Vladimir Sokoloff
Pinky Grayson	Donald McBride
Cecilia Landis	Sara Haden

Bill's pestiferous mother-in-law. From that point until nearly the finish, "Love Crazy" is a slapstick riot. It's all the mother-in-law's fault.

Steve and Susan, who are Powell and Miss Loy, were marvelously happy. Here, on their fourth wedding anniversary, they were planning to relive their wedding day for the fourth time—the long walk to the preacher's house, the ceremony, the preacher's gift of a shallow glass of port, Susan's rowing Steve on the lake, and the midnight dinner. Only this year, just for the novelty, they were going to do it all backwards, even down to starting the dinner with dessert and ending up with soup. That's a little crazy, of course, but you can see at once that it's love.

That's where mother-in-law enters on a surprise visit. And she thinks it's only crazy, and so the dessert goes back to its rightful place and the soup is served first as it usually is. To a four-year married couple still in love, that is very disconcerting. But that is only the beginning. Before she is through, Steve's mother-in-law has ruined each of his plans, sent Susan off on an errand and left him literally twiddling his thumbs.

But mother-in-law really goes to town when she overhears Steve fixing to duck out with a one-time flame. That's where she's really wicked. She lets him go and waits up for Susan to put a bug in her ear. This mother-in-law is a despicable old vixen. Yet the wickedder she is, the funnier are the results. For when she begins to break up Steve and Susan's home, she starts the zaniest mixup

ever to ensnare the team of Powell and Loy. And that is going some. She gets Susan and Steve on the brink of a divorce where they teeter while Steve pretends insanity and forces the judge to postpone the case until he's proved sane. Which, this being Bill Powell, is practically impossible to do even when Bill wants to.

And on that hangs the remainder of "Love Crazy," the wackiest part, the silliest part, the most inexplicable part, but the most hilarious part, with Powell knocking around in a nut house and, unintentionally, convincing the experts he's a homicidal maniac. He's forced to take to a wig, skirts and a falsetto voice, too, but that is hopelessly beyond explaining.

A cockeyed story? Definitely. A natural for Powell and Loy? Unquestionably. Some credit for the rest of the cast? Loads—for Mother-in-law Florence Bates; Gail Patrick as the other woman; Jack Carson as the other man; Sig Rumann, Vladimir Sokoloff, Donald McBride; Scripwriters Ludwig, Lederer and Hertz and Director Jack Conway. Worth seeing? Don't miss it. And take your mother-in-law.



WILLIAM POWELL (yes, that's him) in "Love Crazy," co-starring Myrna Loy, which comes to the Capitol today.