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THE BIGAMIST

USA, 1953

Running Time: 80 minutes

US Distributor: Ivy Film

Director: Ida Lupino

Producer: Collier Young

Screenplay: Collier Young, based on a story by Larry Marcus and Lou Schor

Cast: Edmund O'Brien, Joan Fontaine, Ida Lupino, Edmund Gwenn

The Bigamist involves a pathetic, ineffectual salesman (Edmund O'Brien) torn between his two wives. One (Joan Fontaine) is an aggressive yet loving woman who has substituted a career for her inability to have children. The other wife (Ida Lupino) is a lonely waitress and also the mother of O'Brien's only child. Sexist in some respects (many career-woman barbs are thrown) the film also shows a compassion for the characters that gives real life to the story. The tension of the plot is left unresolved, avoiding the usual stereotypical ending.