

**Journeys of Desire: OLLI Winter 2021: Week 1: Greta Garbo**



THE SAGA OF GOSTA BERLING



FLESH AND THE DEVIL

Greta Garbo: Partial Filmography:

YEAR	FILM	DIRECTOR	CO-STAR
1924	THE SAGA OF GOSTA BERLING	Mauritz Stiller	Lars Hanson
1925	THE JOYLESS STREET	G.W. Pabst	Asta Nielsen
1926	TORRENT	Monta Bell	Ricardo Cortez
1926	THE TEMPTRESS	Fred Niblo	Antonio Moreno
1926	FLESH AND THE DEVIL	Clarence Brown	John Gilbert
1927	LOVE	Edmund Goulding	John Gilbert
1928	THE DIVINE WOMAN	Victor Seastrom	Lars Hanson
1928	A WOMAN OF AFFAIRS	Clarence Brown	John Gilbert
1929	WILD ORCHIDS	Sidney Franklin	Lewis Stone
1930	ANNA CHRISTIE	Clarence Brown	Charles Bickford
1931	SUSAN LENOX	Robert Z. Leonard	Clark Gable
1931	MATA HARI	George Fitzmaurice	Ramon Novarro
1932	GRAND HOTEL	Edmund Goulding	John Barrymore
1932	AS YOU DESIRE ME	George Fitzmaurice	Melvyn Douglas
1933	QUEEN CHRISTINA	Rouben Mamoulian	John Gilbert
1934	THE PAINTED VEIL	Richard Boleslawski	Herbert Marshall
1935	ANNA KARENINA	Clarence Brown	Fredric March
1936	CAMILLE	George Cukor	Robert Taylor
1937	CONQUEST	Clarence Brown	Charles Boyer
1939	NINOTCHKA	Ernst Lubitsch	Melvyn Douglas
1941	TWO-FACED WOMAN	George Cukor	Melvyn Douglas



CAMILLE



NINOTCHKA

Film in Focus: QUEEN CHRISTINA: 1933:

director: Rouben Mamoulian

cast: Greta Garbo, John Gilbert, Ian Keith, Lewis Stone, Elizabeth Young, C. Aubrey Smith, Reginald Owen, Georges Renavent, Gustav von Seyffertitz, David Torrence

From *The Movie Guide*: "A revelation, wrung from the usual MGM Bio identikit, but given shape by Mamoulian's painterly eye, and immortality by Garbo's ability to transcend. Even when the script serves up great clumps of unleavened bread, Garbo imbues it with living emotion. Although the same cannot be said of still-handsome Gilbert's Spanish ambassador, their love scenes capture the depth of overwhelming emotion in an unparalleled, perfectly beautiful way. If some of Garbo's other performances have dated, this one documents her magical strangeness in a way that has stood the test of time.



"Garbo's CHRISTINA is a decisive queen, ruling Sweden with wisdom and compassion. Her former lover, Magnus (Keith), attempts to arrange a marriage between Christina and a dashing prince, but she will have nothing to do with political unions. Then, while out riding, she encounters Don Antonio (Gilbert), the newly appointed ambassador from Spain. Intrigued by the gallant Spaniard, Christina decides to discover his real nature by disguising herself as a man. ... "In QUEEN CHRISTINA Garbo had her way, making use of an iron-clad contract that paid her \$250,000 a film, gave her the choice of director, cameraman, leading man, and, in fact, the entire cast, if she cared to select the extras. She had seen a young British actor, Laurence Olivier, in an Ann Harding vehicle, WESTWARD PASSAGE, and liked him. Olivier was signed to play the Spanish ambassador and came to the studio to rehearse with Garbo, at Mamoulian's suggestion. The rehearsal was a disaster, as Garbo froze up. Olivier was told to forget about appearing in a Garbo film, and Mamoulian immediately called Gilbert, asking him to help warm up the woman he had starred with in the heyday of the silent era. The effect he had on her was amazing. Still, the studio proposed other leading players, *anyone* but Gilbert, but Garbo refused anyone else. Much has been said about Garbo's magnanimous insistence that Gilbert, the fallen star, join her in a major film to rescue his almost lost career. She was reportedly no longer in love with him but was returning the favor he had extended to her at the beginning of *her* career, when he demanded she costar with him in the silent classic FLESH AND THE DEVIL. But not until Gilbert signed his contract to do QUEEN CHRISTINA did [MGM studio head Louis B.] Mayer give up trying to replace him. Chief of production Irving Thalberg and Garbo hoped for a comeback for Gilbert, but even though he was touching in his role, the public was no longer interested, having bought the myth, sponsored by Mayer, about the actor's inadequacy in talkies."