



Lubitsch Can't Wait: A Collection of Ten Philosophical Discussions on Ernst Lubitsch's Film Comedy

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Ernst Lubitsch, the great author of Hollywood comedy and pioneer of such genres as the sophisticated romantic comedy, the musical, and the screwball comedy, is a relatively overlooked figure in mainstream film theory. In this collection, renowned world thinkers and philosophers position Lubitsch as the premium director of subversive cinema, reflecting on his attitude toward love and politics which correspond to contemporary issues. Followers of the Hegelian, Marxist, Freudian, Lacanian, and Deleuzian traditions discuss the philosophical, political, and ethical dimensions of Lubitsch's late Hollywood work. They focus on love as stealing, the ethics of style, and comedy in times of austerity in the director's masterpiece, *Trouble in Paradise* (1932); answer the question of why comedy is always polygamous; discuss links between masochism, melancholia, and ideology in *Ninotchka* (1939); celebrate the ethical gesture of comedy in *To Be or Not to Be* (1942); and promote the revolutionary comic spirit of Lubitsch's last directorial effort, *Cluny Brown* (1946). These essays' witty, subversive, and provocative approaches highlight Lubitsch's unique understanding of love, sex, comedy, and politics and idiosyncratic conception of totalitarian "nightmares" and capitalistic "paradise," countering the non-dialectic and politically correct discourse of mainstream and independent cinema today.

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