As a child, he cavorted in toga and sandals with Isadora Duncan and her troupe. He was once the toast of Broadway and his elopement with a famous heiress made the front page of the New York Times. But PRESTON STURGES (1898-1959) will forever be remembered for a dizzying, golden run of comedies in the early 1940s. Starting as a screenwriter in the early 1930s (his writing work including some of the greatest screwball comedies of the era), Sturges would become a member of the directing elite (along with DeMille, Hitchcock, Ford, and few others), whose names meant something at the box office. But Sturges was the first to direct his own scripts, and his example inspired other writers, like John Huston and especially Billy Wilder, to follow in his footsteps.

Special thanks to JASON JACKOWSKI (Universal Pictures), TODD WIENER, STEVEN K. HILL (UCLA Film & Television Archives), WYATT AND LISA McCREA, SUZANNE LLOYD (Harold Lloyd Trust), JAMES CURTIS, STUART KLAYANS, and TOM STURGES.

CROOKED, BUT NEVER COMMON: THE FILMS OF PRESTON STURGES (Columbia University Press), a new book critical and cultural historian STUART KLAYANS, will be available at Film Forum’s concession during the festival.
Written & Directed By

PRESTON STURGES

CONTINUES THROUGH FEBRUARY 2

THE LADY EVE
(1941, STURGES)
Barbara Stanwyck, Henry Fonda, Eugene Pallette, William Demarest. Screenplay by Sturges, 35mm.
SAT, JANUARY 21 2:30, 6:35*
SAT, JANUARY 28 8:40
SUN, JANUARY 29 2:40, 8:45
THU, FEBRUARY 2 12:30
*INTRODUCED BY STUART KLAWANS

CHRISTMAS IN JULY
(1940, STURGES)
35mm.
MON, JANUARY 23 2:30, 6:10
SUN, JANUARY 29 1:00
MON, JANUARY 30 12:30, 4:10, 7:45
TUE, JANUARY 31 12:30

THE GREAT McGINTY
(1940, STURGES)
Brian Donlevy, Akim Tamiroff, William Demarest. Screenplay by Sturges. Sturges’ directorial debut. 35mm.
MON, JANUARY 23 12:30, 4:10, 7:50*
SUN, JANUARY 29 11:00 (Film Forum Jr.)
*PRE-RECORDED INTRODUCTION BY JAMES CURTIS, AUTHOR OF BETWEEN FLOPS: A BIOGRAPHY OF PRESTON STURGES

EASY LIVING
(1937, MITCHELL LEISEN)
Jean Arthur, Edward Arnold, Ray Milland, Franklin Pangborn. Screenplay by Sturges, 35mm.
SUN, JANUARY 22 1:10
WED, JANUARY 25 12:30, 4:35, 8:40
TUE, JANUARY 31 1:20

UNFAITHFULLY YOURS
(1948, STURGES)
Rex Harrison, Linda Darnell, Rudy Vallee, Edgar Kennedy. Screenplay by Sturges, DCP.
SUN, JANUARY 22 7:30*
FRI, JANUARY 27 2:30, 6:45
*INTRODUCED BY STUART KLAWANS

THE FRESHMAN
(1925, SAMUEL TAYLOR AND FRED NEWMEYER)
TUE, JANUARY 31 6:25

THE GREAT MOMENT
(1944, STURGES)
Joel McCrea, Betty Field, Franklin Pangborn, Porter Hall, Harry Carey. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm.
MON, JANUARY 30 2:10, 5:50, 9:25
FEBRUARY 1 12:30, 4:30, 8:20

REMEMBER THE NIGHT
(1937, MITCHELL LEISEN)
Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck, Beulah Bondi, Sterling Holloway. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm.
WED, JANUARY 25 2:30, 6:35*
TUE, JANUARY 31 4:20
*INTRODUCED BY BARBARA STANWYCK BIOGRAPHER VICTORIA WILSON

HAIL THE CONQUERING HERO
(1944, STURGES)
Eddie Bracken, Ella Raines, Dianna Lynn, William Demarest. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm.
THU, JANUARY 26 2:40, 7:00*
THU, FEBRUARY 2 8:45
*PRE-RECORDED INTRODUCTION BY STURGES BIOGRAPHER JAMES CURTIS

THE GOOD FAIRY
(1935, WILLIAM WYLER)
Margaret Sullavan, Herbert Marshall, Frank Morgan, Reginald Owen. Screenplay by Sturges.
35mm.
TUE, JANUARY 24 1:00, 6:00

THE POWER AND THE GLORY
(1933, WILLIAM K. HOWARD)
Spencer Tracy, Colleen Moore, Ralph Morgan. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm print courtesy UCLA Film & Television Archive.
WED, FEBRUARY 1 12:30, 4:30, 8:20

THE GREAT SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK
(1947, STURGES)
Harold Lloyd, Frances Ramsden, Jimmie Conlin, Raymond Walburn, Rudy Vallee, Franklin Pangborn, Margaret Hamilton. Screenplay by Sturges. New 35mm restoration courtesy UCLA Film & Television Archive.
SUN, JANUARY 22 11:00 (Film Forum Jr.)
TUE, JANUARY 31 8:15

THE SIN OF HAROLD DIDDLEBOCK
(1925, SAMUEL TAYLOR AND FRED NEWMEYER)
Harold Lloyd, Frances Ramsden, Jimmie Conlin, Raymond Walburn, Rudy Vallee, Franklin Pangborn, Margaret Hamilton. Screenplay by Sturges. New 35mm restoration courtesy UCLA Film & Television Archive.
SUN, JANUARY 22 11:00 (Film Forum Jr.)
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THE GOOD FAIRY
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Margaret Sullavan, Herbert Marshall, Frank Morgan, Reginald Owen. Screenplay by Sturges.
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THE GREAT MOMENT
(1944, STURGES)
Joel McCrea, Betty Field, Franklin Pangborn, Porter Hall, Harry Carey. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm.
MON, JANUARY 30 3:30
SAT, JANUARY 28 12:30

THE POWER AND THE GLORY
(1933, WILLIAM K. HOWARD)
Spencer Tracy, Colleen Moore, Ralph Morgan. Screenplay by Sturges. 35mm print courtesy UCLA Film & Television Archive.
WED, FEBRUARY 1 12:30, 4:30, 8:20

IF I WERE KING
(1938, FRANK LOFF)
Ronald Colman, Basil Rathbone, Frances Dee, Ellen Drew. Screenplay by Sturges. NEW 4K DCP.
WED, FEBRUARY 1 2:20, 6:20