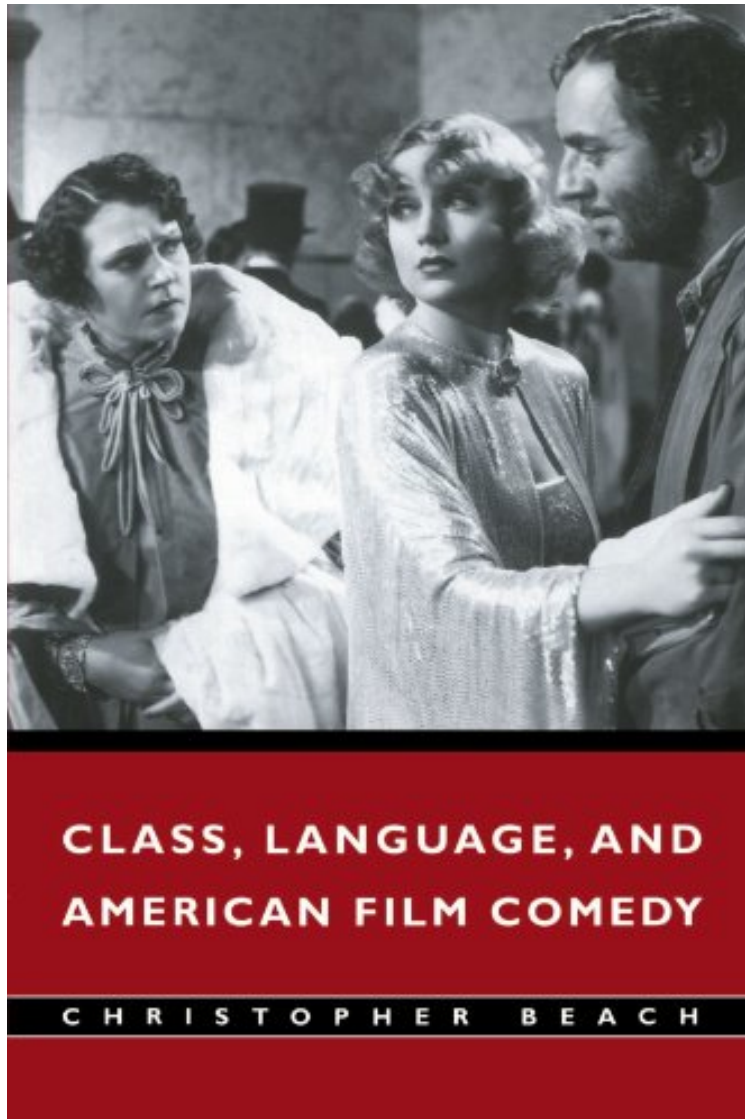


Class, Language, and American Film Comedy

Christopher Beach

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Christopher Beach : Class, Language, and American Film Comedy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Class, Language, and American Film Comedy:

Examining the evolution of American film comedy since the beginning of the sound era (c. 1930), Christopher Beach focuses on how language, class, and social relationships in early sound comedies by the Marx Brothers, the screwball comedies of the 1930s by Capra, Sturges and others, and 1950s comedies of Frank Tashlin and Vincente Minnelli, and

contemporary films by Woody Allen, Whit Stillman, and the Coen brothers. Beach argues that sound and narrative expanded the semiotic and ideological potential of a film, providing moments of genuine social critique and also mass entertainment. Christopher Beach teaches at the University of California, Irvine, and has taught at the University of Montana and Claremont Graduate University. He is the author of three books on American poetry, including *Poetic Culture* (Northwestern, 1999). This is his first book on film.