Columbia Pictures began on Hollywood’s Poverty Row, an area housing small production companies that churned out low budget westerns and B pictures. Until his death in 1959, the studio was headed by the indomitable Harry Cohn, who prided himself on producing films quickly and cheaply. In the late 1920s, Columbia began a remarkable collaboration with director Frank Capra, who would make twenty-six films for the studio, among them some of Columbia’s most prestigious productions. It was Capra who directed the studio’s first all-talking picture THE DONAVAN AFFAIR and who won the studio’s first Oscar—for the comedy IT HAPPENED ONE NIGHT.

Throughout its history, Columbia produced films that reflected the social concerns of the day, beginning with Capra’s 1932 interracial love story, THE BITTER TEA OF GENERAL YEN. Among the other films included in the UCLA Film and Television Archive’s collection are BLIND ALLEY (1932), ALL THE KING’S MEN (1949), THE CAINE MUTINY (1954), PORGY AND BESS (1959), ON THE WATERFRONT (1954), THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI (1957), ALL THE YOUNG MEN (1960), GUESS WHO’S COMING TO DINNER (1967), FIVE EASY PIECES (1970), THE LAST DETAIL (1974) and THE BIG CHILL (1983). A number of important films have been preserved under the Archive’s cooperative preservation program with Columbia Pictures.
Columbia Films

Films
(this is only a partial list – consult the Archive Research and Study Center for further listings)


Mr. Deeds Goes to Town (1936). Director, Frank Capra. Writer, Robert Riskin. Study Copy: DVD 48 M

Awful Truth (1937). Director, Leo McCarey. Writer, Vina Delmar. Study Copy: VA 20482 M

His Girl Friday (1940). Director, Howard Hawks. Writer, Charles Lederer. Study Copy: VD 931 M

Lady from Shanghai (1948). Director and Writer, Orson Welles. Study Copy: DVD 2788 M

All the King's Men (1949). Director and Writer, Robert Rossen. Based on the novel by Robert Penn Warren. Study Copy: VD 1898 M

Shockproof (1949). Director, Douglas Sirk. Writer, Helen Deutsch and Samuel Fuller. Study Copy: VA 1186 M

From Here to Eternity (1953). Director, Fred Zinneman. Writer, Daniel Taradash. Based on the novel by James Jones. Study Copy: VD 64 M


On the Waterfront (1954). Director, Elia Kazan. Writer, Budd Schulberg. Study Copy: DVD 2576 M

Lawrence of Arabia (1962). Director, David Lean. Writer, Robert Bolt. Study Copy: DVD 2772 M

Dr. Strangelove, or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (1964). Director, Stanley Kubrick. Writer, Kubrick, Terry Southern and Peter George. Study Copy: DVD 671-672 M

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967). Director, Stanley Kramer. Writer, William Rose. Study Copy: DVD 2697 M


Print Resources
(for more information consult the UCLA Arts Library)
