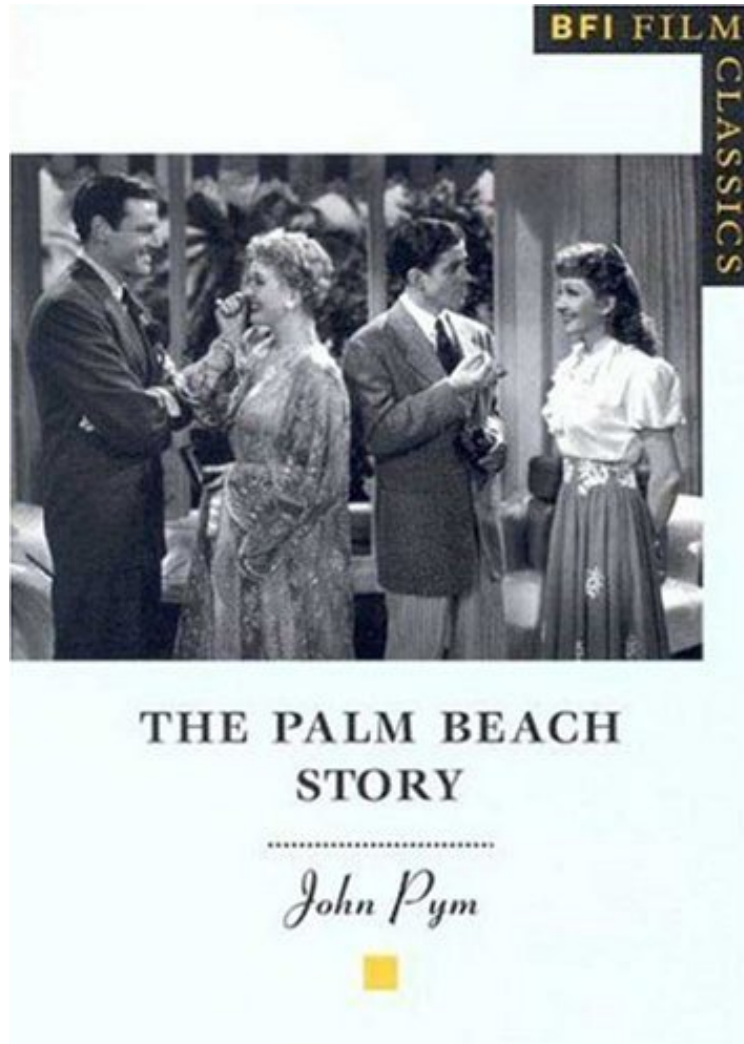


The Palm Beach Story (BFI Film Classics)

John Pym

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John Pym : The Palm Beach Story (BFI Film Classics) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Palm Beach Story (BFI Film Classics):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Informative, Insightful, Expensive By Michael P. Healy The 1942 Palm Beach Story is one of the wittiest movies Hollywood ever produced. It's also one of my favorites. John Pym, in this beautifully illustrated little book, touches on many of the film's most intriguing elements--the wacky, episodic plot, the rapid fire dialogue, the late Depression era fixation on millionaires, and the erotic charge that jumps between Claudette Colbert and Joel McCrea. He also gives us a few details of director Preston Sturges's life that put some of the scenes and attitudes in a fresh perspective. One of his original contributions is relating elements of the the movie to the outbreak of WWII. What he skips, for the most part, is the actors. With his focus on Sturges, who also wrote the

script, Pym appears to undervalue the contributions of the actors whose presence on screen makes Sturges's words sparkle. Throughout the book he writes mostly in terms of the script and the characters when discussing a scene, while in my mind I see and hear Rudy Vallee, Claudette Colbert, and the rest. Overall, however, this book is a valuable companion to the film. The British Film Institute would do themselves and us a favor by combining five or six related "classics" titles into volumes of reasonable price.

Working for Paramount in the 1940s playwright and scriptwriter Preston Sturges directed a succession of exceptional comedies of which the "Palm Beach Story" is perhaps the finest. Pym's account recreates the subtlety and a dazzling energy of this near perfect film. In the BFI FILM CLASSICS series.