Bringing Up Baby: generic hybridity and Dirty Dancing

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Abstract

Dirty Dancing’s narrative privileges the maturation of its female hero, granting ‘Baby’ Houseman both desire and agency as she attempts to negotiate the tricky etiquettes of romance and dancing in the summer of 1963. Skillfully, the film co-opts elements from different genres, pillaging melodramas, rites of passage movies, musicals, romances. Even romantic comedies are ransacked for tropes: alongside straightforward comic moments, such as Baby’s giggling and clumsiness during training, the romcom tradition of the "wrong partner", who the central character must outgrow and forego, is borrowed by the film. Fascinatingly, however, because of the film’s fusion of romcom with family melodrama, the wrong partner who must be discarded is the heroine’s own father. Romance in Dirty Dancing not only emerges through the formation of the new young couple, but exists already in the pairing of Baby and her Dad. While the former couple inheres in action, both on and off the dance floor, the latter is permitted verbal expression. Baby and Johnny never exchange words of love - “I’ll never be sorry”; “Neither will I” is as near as they get to a declaration - but Baby does make the familiar romantic confession in a big dramatic scene - to her father. A further key moment occurs when Baby advises Lisa not to sleep with Robbie because ‘the first time should be with....someone you kind of love’. Ignoring the tacit declaration of lost virginity, her sister declares that Baby resents sacrificing her status as Daddy’s favourite. Lisa’s seeming non-sequitur actually exposes the link between Baby’s rebellion against paternal authority and the sexual act, the inevitable replacement of Jake by Johnny which signals the healthy working-through of Electra issues. The underlying psychosexual politics of the film’s romances thus account for its accent not only on kisses, on love and romance, but on tears, on trauma and upset.

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Bringing Up Baby. Director: Howard Hawks. Actors: Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, Charles Ruggles, Walter Catlett. YOU ARE WATCHING: Bringing Up Baby. The video keeps buffering? Just pause it for 5-10 minutes then continue playing! Share Bringing Up Baby movie to your friends. Share to support Putlocker. Bringing Up Baby is a screwball comedy about a paleontologist, David Huxley (Cary Grant), involved with a scatterbrained woman, Susan Vance (Katharine Hepburn), and a tame leopard named Baby (Nissa the Leopard). Baby, in Susan's temporary care, is a gift from Susan's brother to their aunt Elizabeth (May Robson), who David hopes will make a large donation to his museum. David is about to marry Alice (Virginia Walker). David is piecing together a brontosaurus skeleton that is missing one bone (the fictitious intercostal clavicle), which Susan's dog, George (Asta from The Thin Man Watch online full movie: Bringing Up Baby (1938) for free. While trying to secure a $1 million donation for his museum, a befuddled paleontologist is pursued by a flighty and often irritating heiress and her pet leopard "Baby." Director: Howard Hawks Writers: Dudley Nichols (screen play), Hagar Wilde (screen play), Stars: Katharine Hepburn, Cary Grant, Charles Ruggles. Bringing Up Baby (1938). Bringing Up Baby (1938). 2014-05-10. RBPlugin.