KINONIK

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (1940)

Directed by George Cuko

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30TH 7pm

SATURDAY MAY 3RD 7PM



"Getting an Oscar for ***The Philadelphia Story*** was the easiest Oscar you could imagine. All you had to do was get out of the way."

Considered by many to be the greatest of the golden-age comedies, ***The Philadelphia Story*** (1940) has it all: incredible cast, writing, and cinematography... but more interesting is the antidote it served for Katherine Hepburn's career. Phillip Barry penned the play to lure Hepburn back to the stage after a series of flops had her declared "box office poison". After a smash-hit Broadway run of 417 performances, Hepburn engaged director George Cukor (*A Star is Born, My Fair Lady*) and screenwriter Donald Ogden Stewart for the film adaptation, determined to resuscitate her image. Fearing failure, the studio attached Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart to the project.

What resulted was a stellar blue-chip comedy that set the standard for romcoms and broke box office records. Audiences loved the character rapport, for which Ogden gave majority credit to Barry (he considered it the easiest adaptation he had ever done), and Katherine Hepuburn reclaimed her position as one of Hollywood's elite. It was nominated for six Oscars, taking home two, and resulted in several more adaptations – for TV, radio, and a musical – while consistently ranking as the top romantic comedy of all time, eighty-five years later. *The Philadelphia Story* is simply the greatest talents of classic Hollywood at their best – a no-brainer night out and a must-see in stunning 16mm film.