

Laura Encyclopedia Article

Laura by Otto Preminger

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Laura

Laura (1944) is a classic film noir that critic Pauline Kael calls "Everybody's favorite murder mystery." Featuring a superb ensemble cast—Gene Tierney as the mysteriously disappeared Laura; Dana Andrews as investigating detective Mark McPherson who falls in love with Laura's portrait; Clifton Webb as the cynical radio personality Waldo Lydecker, who regards the beautiful Laura as both his creation and his property; Vincent Price as Laura's shallow, Southern playboy suitor Shelby Carpenter, and Judith Anderson as Laura's rich spinster aunt and Shelby's would-be lover—*Laura* is stylishly and superbly directed by Otto Preminger. Nominated for five Academy Awards, *Laura* won for Best Cinematography. The haunting score by David Raskins would become one of the most famous movie themes ever written. Moderately successful when it was released in 1944, *Laura* has become a cult favorite and a staple of the classic movie cable channels.

Further Reading:

Kael, Pauline. *5001 Nights at the Movies*. New York, Henry Holt, 1991.

Silver, Alain, and Elizabeth Ward. *Film Noir: An Encyclopedic Reference to the American Style*. Woodstock, New York, The Overlook Press, 1979.