

Wuthering Heights Encyclopedia Article

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

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Wuthering Heights

Emily Brontë's 1847 Gothic novel about the brooding Heathcliff's passion for Cathy has become one of cinema's most enduring love stories. Director A. V. Bramble, in a British silent production (1920), first brought *Wuthering Heights* to the screen; but Samuel Goldwyn's 1939 version, directed by William Wyler and starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon, is considered the film classic (and a source of much Hollywood lore, such as Goldwyn's post-production decision to add a new "happy" ending, the now famous scene of the lovers walking together on the crag filmed with unknown actors.) Subsequent refilmings and adaptations—by director Luis Buñuel, as *Abismos de Pasión* (1954); by Robert Fuest (1970), starring Timothy Dalton; by the BBC (in 1948, 1953, 1962, 1967, and, most notably, by Peter Hammond in 1978); by Jacques Rivette, as *Hurlevent* (1985); and by Peter Kosminsky, as *Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights* (1992), with Ralph Fiennes and Juliette Binoche; and by David Skynner, again as *Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights* (1998)—confirm the popularity of Brontë's tale and filmmakers' ongoing fascination with it.