Lupino, Ida (1918-1995) Encyclopedia Article

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Contents

Lupino, Ida (1918-1995) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Lupino, Ida (1918-1995).....3

Lupino, Ida (1918-1995)

An actress, director, and screenwriter of considerable reputation, Ida Lupino was born into a distinguished British theater family. After a less than satisfactory start in Hollywood as a blonde ingenue type, Lupino broke through with a strong performance in the drama *The Light that Failed* (1940). Signed by Warner Brothers, Lupino became famous for her roles as a hard-boiled, tough-luck dame, earning the moniker "the poor man's Bette Davis." She worked with the best directors (Raoul Walsh, Fritz Lang) and top co-stars (Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson, Olivia de Havilland). A striking brunette with a memorable voice, which she likened to "a fat man who's been drinking a lot," Lupino handled glamorous roles and drab character parts with equal ease. Her path-breaking career as a director and screenwriter of films and television received favorable critical reassessment. Lupino's droll persona and her versatility made her a popular performer with a long career.

Further Reading:

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Everitt, David. "A Woman Forgotten and Scorned No More." *New York Times.* November 23, 1997.

Kuhn, Annette, editor. *Queen of the 'B's: Ida Lupino Behind the Camera.* Westport, Connecticut, Greenwood Press, 1995.